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How Carol Vorderman got political

Interview by Deborah Ross

MAGAZINE



My bromance with Elton

By Bernie Taupin

Fugitive's family tell him: Hand yourself in

£20k reward in hunt for terror suspect as Met chief says guards may have helped him escape

Fiona Hamilton Chief Reporter
Duncan Gardham, Shayma Bakht
Tom Witherow

The family of the escaped alleged terrorist Daniel Abed Khalife appealed last night for him to give himself up as the search headed towards its fourth day.

In an exclusive interview with The Times, a close relative blamed the British Army for his downfall, saying that Khalife was a "very, very intelligent, easy going and kind boy" who had changed in the past year.

"If I could talk to him, I would tell him to end this and give himself up, even though I understand he is afraid," the relative said.

Khalife, a former soldier, escaped from Wandsworth prison, southwest London, early on Wednesday by strapping himself to the underside of a food delivery lorry.

Other developments:

- Detectives said that a member of the public had reported seeing Khalife, 21, walking away from a roundabout less than a mile from HMP Wandsworth on the morning of the escape.
- Scotland Yard offered up to £20,000 for information leading to his arrest.
- Sir Mark Rowley, the Metropolitan Police commissioner, said that officers were investigating whether Khalife's escape was an inside job involving prison guards.
- Specialist teams used thermal scanners to search Richmond Park, London's largest park.
- Border Force doubled the number of staff checking and searching vehicles at the port of Dover yesterday, causing long delays.

Khalife, a British citizen whose mother was born in Iran, is charged under the Official Secrets Act with trying to pass information to the hostile state. He is also accused of leaving hoax bomb devices at his military base in Stafford, West Midlands.

He was in the Royal Signals at the time, a regiment involved in sensitive communications and interception work, although he was discharged from the army in May after the charges.

The close relative, who asked not to be identified, said that Khalife's family were secular Iranians opposed to the present regime, although they did not campaign against it. Khalife has visited Iran twice, taken by his mother to see his family when he was a baby and again when he was aged six or

Continued on page 6



AI raises chance of IVF success

Ciara Lawlor's son John was born after two IVF embryos failed. Later AI analysis showed the third embryo was always stronger. Page 9

Scrum

12-page guide to the Rugby World Cup

See Sport

MAGAZINE



Warning! Middle-aged men on dating apps

NEWS

My ****ing week by Gillian Keegan

According to Hugo Rifkind



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VISIT…

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Today's highlights

8.10am The Tory MP **Damian Green**, former minister for the Cabinet Office
8.35am **David Lammy**, right, shadow foreign secretary
12.35pm The comedian, actor and author **Ben Miller** on his latest children's adventure novel
1.15pm Political frenemies: **Carolyn Harris**, Labour MP, and the Tory **Victoria Atkins**, financial secretary to the Treasury
2.45pm **Steve Winterburn**, who is creating a life-size bust of Queen Elizabeth



TIMES RADIO
DAB RADIO ● ONLINE ● SMART SPEAKER ● APP

TODAY'S EDITION

New drug for prostate cancer

Thousands of men in Britain stand to benefit from the prostate cancer drug Lu-PSMA, which is delivered via an intravenous drip and "seeks and destroys" tumours with radioactive chemicals. The drug binds only to cancer cells, sparing healthy tissue. **Page 4**

Family rivalry on French right

Marion Maréchal, the granddaughter of Jean-Marie Le Pen, the patriarch of France's hard right, has returned to frontline politics to oppose the party of his daughter Marine Le Pen at the head of a rival right-wing outfit in elections for the European parliament. **Page 37**

'Weak' supply of new homes

Rob Perrins, chief executive of the housebuilder Berkeley, has said the number of homes being built each year is on course to more than halve over the next three years, as the scrapping of annual housing targets has created a culture of "saying no" within local authorities. **Page 41**

164 days since Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich was detained in Russia
#FreeEvan



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WEEKEND



LIFE TOGETHER
'Opposites do attract and we are living proof'
PULLOUT, PAGES 4-5

SATURDAY REVIEW



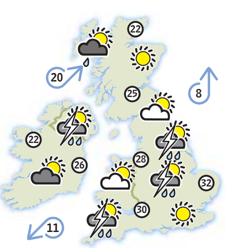
NEW GENRE
Lol Tolhurst on how The Cure invented goth
PULLOUT, COVER STORY

SPORT



EURO QUALIFIER
England take on Ukraine in Poland today
PULLOUT, COVER STORY

THE WEATHER



A hot, humid day with scattered thunderstorms in central and western areas. **Full forecast, page 69**

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Hunt targets benefits to pay for tax cuts before election

Steven Swinford Political Editor

Jeremy Hunt is weighing up plans to cut benefits in real terms to free up cash for tax cuts before the next election.

The chancellor is considering breaking with the normal practice of lifting benefits in line with inflation to give him more room for manoeuvre.

The move is likely to be contentious, however, as the government has already said that it will maintain the triple lock, a mechanism that ensures that the state pension rises by whichever is higher from the increase in average earnings, inflation or 2.5 per cent. Next year it is expected to rise in line with average wages, meaning that it will increase by about 8 per cent.

Benefits usually rise in line with September's inflation figure, which is expected to be just over 7 per cent. However, the Treasury is likely to point to the fact that inflation is expected to be far lower in April next year, when the increase comes into effect.

Bloomberg reports the chancellor is considering raising benefits by 1 per cent below inflation or in line with the lower projected inflation figures for next year. Talks have also been held about making changes to the triple lock but given repeated assurances by the prime minister and Hunt, such an approach is thought to be unlikely.

Labour market data due to be released this month is expected to confirm that the rate of pay growth in recent months has reached 8 per cent.

This has largely been driven by the government's decision to award one-off payments to millions of public sector workers to end months of prolonged strikes by doctors, nurses and teachers. Treasury officials believe that higher-than-predicted inflation and greater wage growth will increase the generosity of the state pension.

The triple lock, introduced by the coalition government in 2010, is based on an average wage-growth measure taken from a snapshot of labour market data between May and July and consumer prices index data in the year to September.

The Treasury is in talks with the Department for Work and Pensions over cuts to avoid breaching a cap introduced in 2014 by George Osborne, who was then chancellor, as part of his austerity programme, to limit the amount the government spent on benefits. The cap, which applies annually and accounts for about half of all welfare spending — excluding pensions and payments most sensitive to fluctuations in the economy — is set at £135.4 billion. However, a recent rise in claimants and the impact of inflation mean the government is likely to breach the cap by £4.1 billion.

If that happens, Mel Stride, the work and pensions secretary, would have to go before parliament with a plan to reduce welfare spending or to win MPs' approval on why it was necessary.

The government is drawing up plans to cut the benefits bill by encouraging hundreds of thousands of people with mobility and mental health problems to look for work they can do from home.

Fewer people will also be able to claim incapacity benefit under "safety net" rules designed for those at risk of suicide, which ministers believe have been used too liberally. Disability charities called the changes "a cynical attempt to reduce benefit payments", with those judged too ill to work entitled to up to £4,680 a year more than those required to look for a job, who can also face sanctions if they do not.

Sunak "fired up" for election, page 10

Energy firms shun scheme for offshore wind farms

Adam Vaughan Environment Editor

A government auction for renewable energy projects has failed to secure the construction of any new offshore wind farms, prompting concerns that households could face higher energy bills.

In recent years the government has held auctions where energy companies compete for contracts for difference (CfDs), enabling them to build renewable energy projects. The contracts give companies a guaranteed minimum price for the electricity they generate.

However, the unprecedented flop of this year's CfDs has put green energy goals and climate targets at risk, experts said. The disappointment was blamed on the government choosing not to adjust the scheme to account for inflationary pressures faced by wind power developers. In previous rounds the auction has secured 15-year contracts for minimum power price guarantees that enabled new offshore wind farms to be financed and built. But the results of the "fifth allocation round" published yesterday reveal no offshore wind projects.

"This is a multibillion-pound lost opportunity to deliver low-cost energy for consumers and a wake-up call for government," Keith Anderson, chief executive of Scottish Power, said.

Companies have been warning that the maximum price they can bid per megawatt hour — the minimum price guarantee — had been set too low. The wind industry wants reforms next year, raising the maximum price, and for the overall budget to be increased.

Yesterday's misstep risks adding to pressures facing household budgets. "The more renewables, the less gas you have to buy. By failing to back offshore wind, the government has added around £1 billion a year to energy bills in coming years," Jess Ralston, energy analyst at the Energy and Climate Intelligence Unit think tank, said.

Ed Miliband, the shadow climate change secretary, said the news was an "energy security disaster".

The absence of projects also jeopardises the government's goal of expanding offshore wind from 14GW of capacity now to 50GW by 2030.

The government claimed the lack of offshore wind schemes was "in line with similar results in countries including Germany and Spain."

Sight of a turbine is like a breath of fresh air, Ann Treneman, Notebook, page 21

Paris climate goals 'likely to be missed'

Adam Vaughan

The world is not on track to meet the goals of the Paris agreement on climate change, according to the most comprehensive analysis of progress since the treaty was signed.

The UN said there remained a "rapidly narrowing window" for the nearly 200 countries that promised eight years ago to limit temperature rises to 1.5C above pre-industrial levels, beyond which extreme weather will escalate drastically.

The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change said "much more action" was needed, with emissions to be cut by 60 per cent within 12 years. "Much more is needed now on all fronts," said the Global Stocktake report.

The UN said that all countries "need to undertake rapid and deep reductions in greenhouse gas emissions in the decades after peaking". China, the world's biggest emitter, has promised its emissions will peak "before 2030".

Journal contributors are skewing results, leading article, page 25
Groupthink is no good, essay, page 28

Council halts Dambusters asylum-seeker site

Tom Ball Northern Correspondent

Local officials have ordered the Home Office to stop work converting a former RAF base that was home to the Dambusters into accommodation for asylum seekers, claiming that it had caused damage to "important heritage assets".

West Lindsey district council said it had served contractors with a temporary stop notice after a "breach of planning control" at the ex-RAF Scampton.

Up to 2,000 migrants could move into the air base, once home to 617 Dambusters Squadron, later this year despite strong local opposition.

The council has already mounted legal challenges to the government's plans, with a judicial review due to be heard at the High Court next month. The local authority will argue that the site is unsuitable for the proposals.

Officials now claim that the Home Office has breached planning laws relating to the listed buildings and archaeology on the site. It says the installation of permanent fencing, intrusive surveying works, groundworks, and connections to utilities have the potential to cause "irreversible damage to important heritage assets". The notice was displayed on site from 7am yesterday and is in force for 28 days.

Sally Grindrod-Smith, the council's director of planning, said the Home Office had failed to provide details of its planned work despite repeated requests. She added: "The council is concerned about the future of the significant and important heritage . . . and the Home Office has not provided the necessary information or reassurances."

The Home Office was approached for comment.

Scampton was one of two decommissioned military bases earmarked by the Home Office in March to be repurposed for housing asylum seekers who arrive in the UK illegally. Ministers argued that accommodating migrants across Scampton and MDP Wethersfield in Essex, as well as the Bibby Stockholm barge moored off Dorset, would reduce reliance on hotels.

Dawn of the Home Counties claret

After the fizz and white wine, British growers have a hardy red grape to take on the French, **Andrew Ellson** writes

GEMMA DAY FOR THE TIMES



A generation ago, any self-respecting Frenchman would have scoffed at the idea of the English producing a wine worth drinking, let alone something that might rival champagne

Fast-forward to the present and English fizz is so well respected it is being sold in Paris. Yet this foray into French territory is not enough for the country's top winemakers, who now have Bordeaux in their sights.

The Yotes Court winery near Maidstone, Kent, has produced the first commercially available vintage of a medium-to-full-bodied red made from a "revolutionary" grape called divico.

The grape, which was developed for higher altitude vineyards in Switzerland, is considered perfect for the English climate, flowering late to avoid frost, maturing fast and resistant to mould and disease. Crucially, it can be harvested late to build sophistication.

Up to now, the English climate and topography have been considered good only for sparkling wines, whites and some lighter reds such as pinot noir. But exponents of divico say it allows vineyards here to produce darker reds equivalent to shiraz, malbec and chianti — and even bordeaux.

The 2022 vintage of the Yotes Court red, called The Favourite, comprises only 250 bottles but its makers plan to increase production for future years.

"We were absolutely thrilled by the results," said Susannah Ricci, owner of Yotes Court. "It's a beautiful wine with a savoury spiciness, soft tannins and dark fruits. It's a lovely deep purple colour and is so full it even stains your teeth. I personally think it is closest to shiraz but it has the potential to take on all the other major red wines from bordeaux to malbec to merlot."

Ricci, who is also a successful racehorse owner, immediately ordered a further 1,000 vines to supplement her original 270, although it was hard to get them because so many English vineyards are scrambling to buy the grape. One owner is said to have driven to Switzerland to grab some root stock.

Divico is a crossbreed of the gamaret and bronner grape varieties. It was invented in 1997 by Jean-Laurent Spring, a viticulturist at the Agroscope research centre in Pully, on the north shore of Lake Geneva.

In the early 2000s, Spring tested the variety in three Swiss vineyards, reporting that it had an exceptional hardiness. He found that within 48 hours of being attacked by mildew, the grape was able to stifle the fungus. It is also able to withstand frost, surviving temperatures of minus 3C. Spring named his grape after the Helvetian king Divico, who defeated the Romans in Gaul in the second century BC.

Nick Blampied-Lane, the chief winemaker at Defined Wine, a contract producer near Canterbury, believes that the divico grape is "incredibly promising" for the English wine industry.

The New Zealander, who formerly worked for Cloudy Bay and Dom Perignon, said that it had properties similar to Hawkes Bay Syrah from his native New Zealand. "It's very early days, but it has the potential to be the champion red wine grape in the UK," he said. "It's highly flavoured and structured and the quality is only going to go up and up as the vines mature."

Other English vineyards investing in divico include Halfpenny Green in Staffordshire, and Warehorne in Kent. They have produced divico reds mixed with other grapes but Warehorne aims to bottle a single variety next year.

Peter Constable, the owner of Warehorne, believes divico could be a "game changer" for domestic producers. "At the moment only 1 per cent of wine bought in the UK is produced here," he said. "And of that 1 per cent, only 5 per cent is red. But divico is capable of giving us a medium-bodied red wine in a bad year. And a full-bodied red wine in a good year. I think it's the future."

The National Institute of Agricultural Botany believes that English winemakers will eventually be producing up to 10,000 tonnes of divico grapes every year, about six million bottles.

Bordeaux beware, the Kent clarets are coming.



Yotes Court bottled 250 bottles of its 2022 vintage divico and Susannah Ricci was so pleased she ordered 1,000 more of the vines

Taste test

It's not the first time England's vignerons have had high hopes of a hardy hybrid (Jane MacQuitty writes). Back in the day, disease-resistant white hybrids such as Germany's reichensteiner and France's seyval blanc ruled.

Today such weather-resistant varieties have been overtaken by chardonnay and pinot noir, accounting for two thirds of Britain's vines. Yet in tricky, frost, mildew and rot-ridden years, pretty much the norm in the UK, late-ripening hybrids are a good insurance. Now it's divico's turn.

Yotes Court compares its divico medium-to-fuller body to primitivo and syrah. Having tasted the really rather good, French oak-barrel-aged, vibrant, dark carmine coloured, crunchy red berry and beetroot-fruited 2022 vintage, I find its exuberant fruit, markedly high levels of tannin and acidity, and low 11 per cent alcohol, make it more akin to the Loire's cabernet franc grape than any other. Nonetheless, divico is a useful new red hybrid for England's grape growers.

Yotes Court, The Favourite Divico, is on sale from September 30, pre-orders to yotescourt.co.uk, £55 a bottle, £15.50 a glass at the visitor centre

Storm warning as heatwave breaks records

Charlie Parker

Today is set to be the hottest day of the year as record-breaking September temperatures continue and the Met Office issues thunderstorm warnings for the weekend.

A six-day heatwave is predicted to peak at a possible 33C, with forecasters warning the hot weather will coincide with storms and sudden flooding. The highest temperature of the year was set on Thursday at 32.6C. It is the first time September has produced the year's highest figure since 1962.

The record for consecutive days of temperatures above 30C in September is likely to continue to be broken today and tomorrow, with yesterday's temperature making it five days in a row.

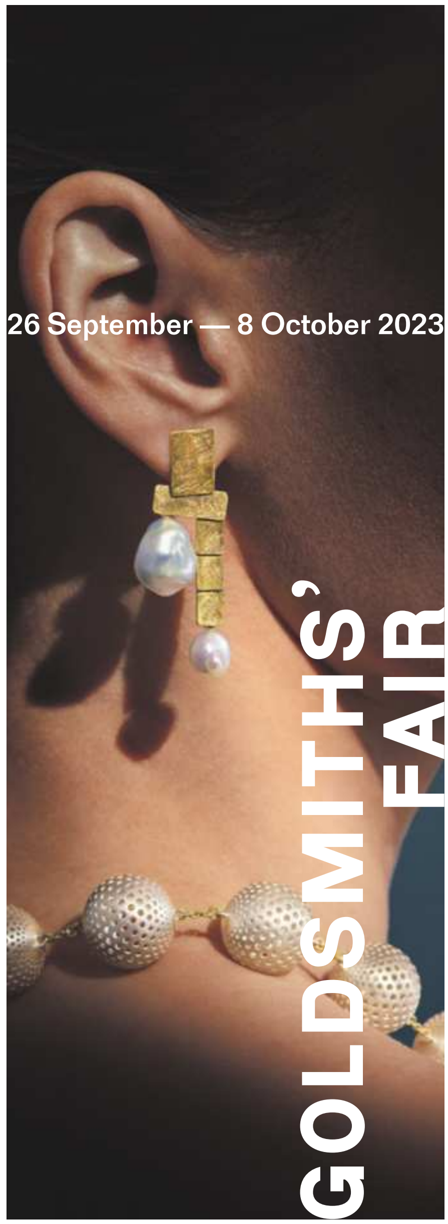
A yellow weather warning has been issued for thunderstorms and a risk of flooding in central and western areas, the Midlands and parts of East Anglia. Amber heat health warnings from the UK Health Security Agency for people aged over 65 and those with underlying health conditions are set to stay in place until 9pm tomorrow.

The NHS has warned of a higher risk of a heatstroke, urging people to check on the vulnerable.

Network Rail said that more than 560 miles of train tracks are at risk of buckling in extreme heat, meaning speed restrictions will be in place, with significant delays expected — as happened last year when temperatures reached 40.3C.

Wera Hobhouse, the Liberal Democrat transport spokeswoman, said: "It was blindingly obvious after last summer that resilience across the rail network had to be addressed. But, as has come to be expected with this government . . . significant amounts of the railway remains vulnerable."

A Department for Transport spokesman said: "We've pledged a record £44.1 billion to maintain vital infrastructure and run a safe and more reliable railway."



Radioactive drug that can seek and destroy prostate tumours

Eleanor Hayward
Health Correspondent

Thousands of men each year stand to benefit from a revolutionary prostate cancer drug.

The drug, Lu-PSMA, is delivered via an intravenous drip and then "seeks and destroys" tumours by targeting the cancer with radioactive chemicals.

It is the first of a new class of "nuclear medicine" treatment and is manufactured by Novartis. Scientists told The Times that successful trial results had paved the way for similar drugs to be used in other cancers including breast, lung and pancreatic tumours.

Because the drug only binds to cancer cells, healthy tissue is spared, so patients avoid the brutal side-effects from other treatments such as chemotherapy and radiotherapy.

More than 50,000 men are diagnosed with prostate cancer each year in the UK, causing 12,000 annual deaths. About 90 per cent have tumours that are "PSMA-positive", meaning their cancer would in theory respond to the new drug.

The health watchdog Nice is expected to announce in November whether Lu-PSMA will be approved for NHS patients with advanced prostate cancer who have tried existing therapies.

Doctors say a study, published in The Lancet Oncology, has significantly strengthened the case for approval. The trial, involving 617 patients with incurable prostate cancer, found it granted men an extra year on average without severe pain, on top of extending survival by four months on average.

The participants all completed questionnaires rating their pain and their ability to live a normal life. On average it took 14.3 months for symptoms to worsen in the Lu-PSMA group compared with 2.9 months for patients in the standard care group. It took 9.7 months for quality of life to worsen, compared with 2.4 months for standard care.

Professor Johann De Bono, the trial leader from the Institute of Cancer Research in London, said making the "cutting-edge" drug available on the NHS would help to reverse Britain's poor prostate cancer survival rates.

"It is a big deal. We believe that this drug should be available on the NHS," he said. "This drug is particularly important because it moves us on to a new type of treatment, and a new era of cancer therapy. It is a huge advance for prostate cancer. But more importantly it paves the way for lots of other advances in other cancers, such as breast cancer and lung cancer."

Traditional "external beam" radiotherapy can be used only on early-stage cancer which is still confined to the prostate. But the new class of "precision radionuclide therapy" acts like a "guided missile" to target all cancer cells, even when it has spread around the body and into the bones. Lu-PSMA binds to a protein on the surface of prostate cancer cells called prostate-specific membrane antigen, or PSMA, and then releases a nuclear isotope, Lutetium-177, which damages the cancer cell's DNA so it cannot replicate.

It has been tested only in patients with advanced prostate cancer, but future trials will examine if it should be offered to those with early-stage disease, potentially providing a cure.

Last year the Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory Agency gave the green light for its use, meaning British patients are already able to access it privately. De Bono, a consultant medical oncologist at the Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust, said: "Many patients are trying to raise money to get it or remortgaging their houses, or travelling abroad to get it. The UK has the worst survival rates of all western nations. It really is a big concern for us as doctors, that our patients are not getting access to this drug.

"For men with advanced prostate cancer, bone is the most common site of spread and this can lead to some of the most painful and debilitating complications of the disease. Finding new treatments that not only improve survival but also reduce pain and improve quality of life is extremely important."

Amy Rylance, head of improving care at Prostate Cancer UK, the charity, said: "We're really excited about lutetium, as it can treat the disease effectively by precisely targeting cancer cells that have spread around the body, and has minimal side effects."

The radioactive treatment is delivered during a hospital visit, through a vein in the arm. Patients are radioactive for a short while after their treatment but can go home the same day. Most men receive four to six treatments, six weeks apart. A course of treatment costs between £60,000 and £100,000.

GARETH IWAN JONES FOR THE TIMES



Andy Taylor now and in his Duran Duran heydey, below. He received Lu-PSMA privately

I've got five more years, says pop star

Case study

Andy Taylor, the Duran Duran star, was diagnosed with stage-four metastatic prostate cancer in 2018 and the disease left him too weak to stand up and play the guitar (Eleanor Hayward writes.)

Taylor, 62, was told that he had few options. His cancer was incurable as it had spread round the body. Lu-PSMA has given him a new lease of life. He began treatment this summer and said it had given him an extra five years. "I was classified as palliative, end-of-life care," he said last month. "And now I'm not; I'm asymptomatic. It has the potential to kill all of the cancer but because it's stage four it's still non-curative. I got my life back."

Taylor has received two rounds of treatment so far and will receive four more. He is receiving it privately in London, after the treatment was suggested to him by Professor Sir Chris Evans, founder of the Cancer Awareness Trust.

Taylor said he was "radioactive for several days" after each session, and was not able to sleep in the same room as someone else for a fortnight.

He has released a new album, *Man's a Wolf to Man*, his first solo album for 30 years.

Two-mile queues after bomb scare halts Channel trains

Ben Clatworthy
Transport Correspondent
David Woode Crime Correspondent

Thousands of passengers faced huge delays after the bomb squad closed the Eurotunnel terminal in Kent because of a "suspicious vehicle".

Army explosive experts were brought in after police were called at 10.30am yesterday to the site in Cheriton, Folkestone. A man was detained and released pending further inquiries, police said. Passengers reported two-mile-long queues.

A source told The Times that a vehicle was swabbed for particulate analysis, which was flagged to security officials. The police were called in and a cordon, which included the check-in area, was established.

The Eurotunnel site was already subject to enhanced border security measures following the escape of Daniel Khalife from Wandsworth prison in London. Police confirmed that the incident was not connected to the search for the terror suspect. The M20 coastbound carriageway between junctions 8 and 9 was closed because of delays caused by enhanced port security checks.

Getlink, which operates the Channel tunnel, said that the cordon remained in place for almost five hours. Extra staff were being mobilised to run trains throughout the night to clear the backlog of cars waiting to travel to France.



Army explosive experts were called in

Quintagram® No 1729

Solve all five concise clues using each letter underneath once only

1 Stare inanely (at) (4)

_ _ _ _

2 Somewhat, fairly (5)

_ _ _ _ _

3 Shaggy-haired Arctic mammal (4,2)

_ _ _ _ _ _

4 Brightness, liveliness (8)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

5 Group of six (4-5)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

A	A	A	B	C	D	E	E
F	G	H	I	I	K	L	M
N	N	O	O	P	Q	R	S
T	U	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

Solutions see page 75
Cryptic clues see Review page 49

Drug factory trio jailed

A pharmacist and his son who ran an illegal sedative factory in a west London industrial estate have been jailed. Over a six-year period from 2016, Allen Valentine, 63, and Roshan Valentine, 39, along with Roshan's friend Krunal Patel, 40, made at least £3.5 million selling class-C benzodiazepines on the dark web to users paying with cryptocurrency. The father and son were sentenced to 11 years and seven years respectively. Patel was given six years at Isleworth crown court.

Custody death apology

The Independent Office for Police Conduct has apologised to the family of Sean Rigg, a 40-year-old musician who died in custody in Brixton in 2008, for delays in investigating the matter. Rigg was arrested over claims he had been aiming kicks at passers-by. In 2019, five Metropolitan Police officers were cleared of misconduct over his death.

Stranded dolphins die

A mass stranding of dolphins on Skye has left 13 animals dead. Volunteers with the British Divers Marine Life Rescue organisation were alerted to unusual activity in Dunvegan Bay on Monday and helped to recover the short-beaked common dolphins, which were found across the bay with many stuck deeply in mud. Post-mortem tests will be carried out.

Headteacher's 'abuse'

A secondary school head teacher has been remanded in custody at Llandudno magistrates' court over charges of sexual activity in Gwynedd, sexual touching of a girl and sexual communication with children. Neil Foden, 66, of Old Colwyn, north Wales, will appear at Caernarfon crown court next month. There was no aplication for bail.

Lost turtle flies home

A lost sea turtle has returned to the warm waters of Texas two years after being rescued on Talacre beach near Prestatyn, north Wales. After a period of rehabilitation at Anglesey Sea Zoo, the critically endangered Kemp's ridley turtle — the smallest species of sea turtle — was flown to Houston and later released into the Gulf of Mexico.

TOBY MELVILLE/REUTERS; ANDREW MILLIGAN/PA; KARWAI TANG

Royals remember Elizabeth

Charles and Camilla, the Prince and Princess of Wales and the Duke of Sussex remembered the late Queen at churches grand and humble to mark the anniversary of her death (Jack Malvern and Holly Nichols write).

While the King and William attended services with family members, Harry paid tribute alone on an unannounced visit to St George's Chapel, Windsor, where she was laid to rest. The duke is visiting Britain from California to go to a charity gala but is not thought to have met his father or brother.

The Prince and Princess of Wales went to St Davids Cathedral in Pembrokeshire while the King and Queen visited Crathie Kirk near Balmoral. The granite and pine church was a favourite of Elizabeth, who was treated as a local by residents of the nearby town of Ballater.

The Rev Kenneth MacKenzie, who officiated, said: "It was a simple, reflective time … where we were able to give thanks for the life of the late Queen."









The Princess of Wales posed with youngsters outside St Davids Cathedral, alongside Prince William, while the King and Queen were in Scotland. Harry marked the day in Windsor

NHS trust was warned over baby deaths 'cover-up' seven years ago

Eleanor Hayward
Health Correspondent

Hospital bosses in Nottingham were warned of a potential cover-up of baby deaths seven years ago but ignored the bereaved parents.

One family wrote to senior managers in 2017 saying the hospital trust "would not know" if it had a serial killer working for it, owing to a failure to properly investigate deaths.

Police announced on Thursday that they would launch a criminal inquiry into failures in maternity services at Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust (NUH). The cases of more than 1,700 families in the past decade are being investigated, including dozens of baby deaths, making it the largest maternity review in NHS history.

Dr Jack and Sarah Hawkins, whose baby Harriet died after a string of failures by the trust in April 2016, said they wrote to the board at the time sharing fears that their daughter's death was not being properly investigated.

Their concerns were not acted upon, meaning hundreds more babies and mothers have suffered potentially avoidable harm. Hawkins said in a letter to regional NHS maternity bosses in January 2017: "We would like it recorded that, in our conversations with you, we have raised concerns that there has been a cover-up." He added: "NUH would not know if they had Beverley Allitt working for them". Allitt murdered four babies at Grantham and Kesteven Hospital, Lincolnshire, in 1991.

In a letter dated June 2016, two months after Harriet's death, the couple wrote: "We are not sure what is happening but are deeply concerned



Sarah Hawkins raised concerns in 2017 after the death of her daughter Harriet

that the plan is for an internal investigation … without our involvement, followed by a meeting with a consultant. This is neither appropriate nor proportionate. We need to trust that NUH are conducting an appropriate inquiry. We do not currently believe that you are. Can you reassure us please?"

The family's call for police involvement was rejected. NUH accepted responsibility for Harriet's death only after an external report identified 13 catastrophic failures in her care, with the family awarded £2.8 million in compensation.

The police investigation will work alongside an independent review into maternity service at the trust, led by Donna Ockenden, the senior midwife, which began last year. Ockenden told the *Today* programme on BBC Radio 4 that the concerns of families "absolutely" should have been acted on earlier.

"The families … were raising very significant concerns," she said. "Very serious concerns about safety are raised by Jack and Sarah Hawkins … as early as June 2016. Nothing material was done. They were not listened to."

Ockenden said the professional duty of candour, which requires every health and care professional to be open and honest with patients, was not being "properly applied".

Lawyers have suggested that the Nottingham trust could face corporate manslaughter charges, while individual staff could be charged with gross negligence manslaughter.

Caroline Klage, a medical negligence lawyer at Bolt Burden Kemp, said staff involved could be charged and prosecuted with criminal offences. She added: "There's likely to be an increase in civil cases being brought against the trust by the families affected.

"There has always been — and regrettably still remains — a deep-rooted fear associated with 'whistle-blowing' in the NHS. It is an entrenched and institutional problem. If concerns are swept under the carpet, then regrettably it is inevitable that more scandals will follow, putting more vulnerable people at risk and, even worse, causing further avoidable harm and death."

Sybille Raphael, legal director of Protect, the whistle-blowing charity, said: "Cover-up benefits no one. We can imagine that patients feel completely betrayed as a result of senior managers being unaware of the scale of the problems at Nottingham University Hospitals — or, worse, choosing not to act.

"A police investigation to get to the bottom of what went wrong is obviously welcome. A key question is whether there was a culture where concerns were raised safely and were investigated. At the moment, it seems unclear whether senior managers were aware of staff concerns, and if they were, what action was taken."

Drop NHS deference and shout the wards down, Janice Turner, page 23

Migrants hit gendarmes in Calais brawl

Ali Mitib, Matt Dathan

Two migrants who were part of a gang that attacked a group of French gendarmes as they tried to stop a small boat launch have been jailed.

Salih Talib Abdullah, 33, and Ahmed Omar Saleh Khater, 25, were given prison sentences of 13 months and 12 months respectively yesterday after admitting attempting to arrive in the UK illegally.

Canterbury crown court was told that Abdullah and Khater were involved in an affray on Oye-Plage, a beach near Calais, on June 16 when French officers were attacked by a large group of migrants attempting to travel to Britain on a small boat. Three officers were injured.

Body camera footage showed both Abdullah and Khater confronting the French officials and brandishing large sticks, with Abdullah swinging one at an officer like a club. Other unidentified migrants could be seen throwing rocks and shouting abuse.

The gendarmes retreated and notified the British authorities of the boat's impending arrival. It was picked up by the RNLI, all 51 people on board were photographed and Abdullah and Khater were identified as suspects.

News Prison escape

Lost jail keys, out-of-date CCTV

Matt Dathan Home Affairs Editor
Fiona Hamilton Chief Reporter
Shayma Bakht

Wandsworth prison has suffered a series of security failures over the past five years including lost keys that forced all locks to be changed and claims that delivery vans are never checked on exit.

The Metropolitan Police said last night it was still investigating whether the escape of Daniel Khalife was an "inside job". Dominic Murphy, the Met's counter-terrorism commander, said nothing was "off the table".

Sir Mark Rowley, the Met's commissioner, said Khalife's escape was "clearly pre-planned" and it was "a question" of whether prison staff or inmates helped him.

A delivery driver who has made several trips to HMP Wandsworth told the BBC that while security procedures involved a "pat-down" and search inside his vehicle, nobody ever checked underneath his van. The prison service insisted there was no evidence to suggest that vans were not being checked on the day Khalife got out.

The terror suspect escaped by strapping himself underneath a BidFood delivery van on Wednesday morning. He released himself and walked away less than a mile from the prison.

Inspection reports over the past decade have exposed a series of failings at the prison that will raise serious questions about security.

The prison set out a range of upgrades needed after a escape in February 2019, when an inmate strapped himself under a van in almost identical circumstances to Khalife's break out.

A report by HMP Wandsworth's independent monitoring board last year found plans to replace the CCTV and intruder detection systems along the perimeter fence had not been completed and were not expected to be ready until 2025, six years after the escape.

X-ray body scanners were installed in September last year to check for contraband but a shortage of trained staff meant the devices could not be used to their full potential. In 2018, the prison had to change all its locks when a guard lost a set of keys.

In the same year, 45 staff at the prison were issued with warning letters for bringing in unauthorised items, with seven dismissed and three convicted.

Several guards have been jailed for smuggling or trying to smuggle contraband over the past decade. A nurse was suspended in 2013 after giving morphine to a prisoner. In July 2019, prison bosses wrongly released a prisoner six days into his six-week sentence and re-arrested him for "escaping" from jail.

In 2015 a gang was found to have been running a £30 million drug ring behind bars, paying a fixer £1 million in bribes for hacked laptops.

Another prisoner escaped in March 2014 using an illicit mobile phone to create a fake email account to pose as a senior court clerk. Bail instructions were sent to prison staff who subsequently released him.

Chris Jones, 53, who worked with Khalife for seven months in the kitchens at HMP Wandsworth, told The Times yesterday of two lockdowns while he was there owing to attempted escapes. He said the kitchens provided the best route to freedom.

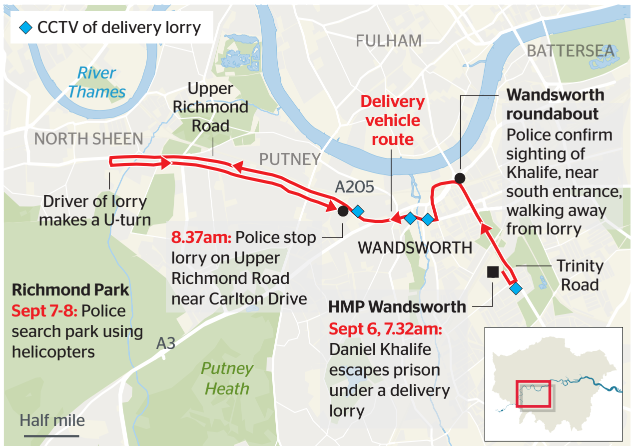
He said: "In my time . . . not once did they check under the lorry. When you're unloading deliveries, there's kitchen guards but they're multi-tasking. You could easily have a ten-minute window because they would often have a chat with friends. It was unbelievable."

A former crown court judge has called for judicial oversight over the prison regime to draw attention to its failings and improve rehabilitation. His Honour John Samuels KC, a former member of the Parole Board, said prisons had been in serious decline for more than a decade due to the austerity regime. In a letter to The Times he said: "Handwringing after a Colditz-type escape is all very well; but the promised inquiry might usefully consider the positive benefits of judicial supervision, which I have been advocating for over 20 years."

The initial findings of an internal prison service inquiry into the circumstances surrounding Khalife's escape landed on the desk of Alex Chalk, the justice secretary, last night.

Rishi Sunak refused to say whether he had confidence in Katie Price, the governor of Wandsworth prison, when asked durng a trip to Delhi.

Prison monitoring, letters, page 24



History of failures

HMP Wandsworth is one of the worst-performing prisons in the country, with the chief inspector of prisons saying there were "serious concerns" in his latest report, the latest in a series of damning assessments (Matt Dathan writes).

January 2022 Paul Addicott, the deputy governor, was sacked for gross misconduct after being accused of groping a male colleague.

November 2020 Three men admitted to a plot to smuggle mobile phones and synthetic cannabis into the prison using drones.

September 2019 An officer was arrested on suspicion of making copies of keys that were given to inmates.

September 2019 A prison officer was jailed for smuggling £90,000 worth of contraband into the prison

July 2019 Bosses wrongly released a prisoner six days into a six-week sentence and then re-arrested him for "escaping" from jail.

February 2019 A prisoner escaped in virtually identical circumstances to Khalife by strapping himself underneath a van, but was recaptured the following day. A schedule to check security arrangements to prevent escapes was introduced, but work did not start until November 2021 and the project is not due to be completed until 2025.

2018 45 staff were issued with warning letters for bringing unauthorised items into the jail. Seven were dismissed, of whom three were convicted.

May 2018 A guard was jailed for smuggling drugs into prison after a random search on staff.

March 2018 Wandsworth had to change all locks after an officer lost a set of keys.

October 2017 The prison had the second-highest rate of staff dismissals and suspensions in England and Wales.

October 2017 An inspection report found that prisoners missed important health checks and sometimes waited more than six months for an appointment.

2015 A gang ran a £30 million drug ring while behind bars. They paid £1 million to bribe a fixer inside and hacked laptops provide by the Ministry of Justice.

March 2014 A prisoner escaped by using an illicit mobile phone to create a fake email account, posed as a senior court clerk and sent bail instructions to prison staff who subsequently released him. His deception was discovered only when solicitors visited the prison to interview him.

October 2013 A nurse was suspended for six months after giving morphine to a prisoner.

September 2013 The prison roof was set on fire after inmates threw burning paper on to it.

October 2009 Two managers were found guilty of gross misconduct after they swapped vulnerable inmates between Wandsworth and Pentonville.



'He won't want to cause us problems'

Continued from page 1

seven. Speaking from home, in an occasionally tearful interview, the relative said: "Danny doesn't know Iran, he loves this country."

The relative urged Khalife to give himself up but did not believe that he would seek family help while on the run. "He would never want to cause us any problems. He loves us very much."

Khalife and his twin sister were brought up by their single mother in a flat in Kingston, southwest London. He was estranged from his father for several years after his parents split, although his father has visited him on remand.

"Some people need guidance. Danny needed someone to tell him and he didn't have that," the relative said. "One single parent can't do that, children need to be looked after."

Khalife chose not to go to sixth-form college, despite his mother's efforts, and instead joined the army. "It seemed to be what he needed, that guidance," the relative said. "But the army has to answer for what happened."

The relative said he was initially a diligent soldier. "He has been in the army for four years, since 2019. I don't know what they have done to him."

Khalife first went missing in January for three weeks before he was charged over the hoax bombs. The relative said: "Two years ago he was quite happy, he said they were good people and then something happened last year. He was scared to talk about it and so he ran away. I don't believe the allegations, he spent four years in the army, it is just silly to imagine he would betray them."

Khalife's mother was born in Iran and got married in her early 20s in Britain. His grandmother was a school teacher in Iran and his grandfather, who died in 2020, was an accountant. His mother's family did not approve the match with Khalife's father, who is from Lebanon.

Commander Dominic Murphy, the head of the Met's counterterrorism command, described the first sighting of Khalife at the Wandsworth roundabout as "significant". He urged the public to call 999 to report further sightings.

cameras and claims of inside job



GRANT FALVEY/LNP; W8MEDIA; VICTORIA JONES/PA









The police hunt for Daniel Khalife, far left, who fled Wandsworth prison in chef's clothing like that pictured, has led to queues on the M20, top, after a stretch was closed. Officers guarded Richmond Park in southwest London overnight, above, after searching it. Sir Mark Rowley, the head of the Met, left, said that Khalife's escape was "clearly" planned and that he may have had inside help

Public help will be vital, says expert

Fiona Hamilton

The trail of suspected terrorist Daniel Khalife will be going cold and the Metropolitan Police will need a "bit of luck" to get a breakthrough, a search specialist has said.

Mel Thomas, a retired police sergeant who stars on Channel 4's *Hunted*, said that the key to finding Khalife was the speed at which members of the public reported potential sightings.

He said: "With a case like this it's just a bit of luck. Every sighting or report is what he may have done hours ago."

Thomas said that the Met's counter-terrorism command would be going through the painstaking task of boxing off streets around the escape route in a geographical grid. It involves going through hundreds of hours of CCTV, doorbell camera and other footage to establish whether he was in the area.

He said scanning parks with thermal cameras was another avenue. In the event that Khalife is linked to a car, detectives can use automatic number plate recognition technology to track it.

Thomas emphasised that Khalife, a trained soldier, could be camera-aware and resilient.

"Sleeping outside is not an issue for him, he's trained to do that. If he goes rural, he's off the grid, there's no CCTV or other technology, and that makes him very difficult to track."

He said that the Met's biggest advantage were "the 65 to 70 million set of CCTV cameras walking around every day: I mean the public".

Thomas, who is a ground hunter on the popular TV programme, said Britain had the "best military in the world" which meant Khalife could be able to evade detection.

"Because you're no longer in the army or in the armed forces, it doesn't mean you become untrained: that experience is always with you."

Thomas, who was awarded the King's Police Medal for distinguished service, said questions would be asked on the "level of security in the establishment" and it was now about "learning lessons".

I did time there … I'm amazed more don't break out



Chris Atkins
Comment

Wednesday's prison break was a shock to everyone except those who have seen the inside of HMP Wandsworth. Unfortunately, it was my home for nine months after I was sentenced to five years for tax fraud in 2016 — and I'm amazed it doesn't happen more often.

I was in no doubt that the escape was enabled by cuts to the justice budget (£900 million a year since 2010) which resulted in a reduction in staff of approximately 30 per cent. The dangerous consequences of these cutbacks were clear during my time inside, as I saw a generation of old-school ex-army screws — bloody frightening but great at their jobs — being pensioned off and replaced by terrified school leavers with nine weeks' training. More than once I was approached by a panicky 18-year-old asking me what time he should open the wing for lunch.

When I read that the escape had caused Wandsworth to go into lockdown I laughed out loud, as 90 per cent of the population spend 23 hours a day stuck in their cells anyway and were unlikely to notice the difference. Rather than undertaking rehabilitation activities like education or drug therapies, inmates are brutally warehoused, which only exacerbates the causes of their offending. I eventually escaped the ferocious "bang up" by sucking up to the overworked officers, who gave me a wide selection of prison jobs. One of these roles, incredibly, was taking the register of prisoners who were leaving the wing. The fact that I'd been convicted of a highly publicised crime of dishonesty somehow didn't make me an unsuitable candidate. I could easily have ticked off a prisoner who was halfway to France and the authorities wouldn't have realised for hours. Daniel Khalife was similarly handed a plum job in the kitchens without anyone checking if his vast potential sentence would be an incentive to do a bunk.



Wandsworth's recruitment policies were a constant source of gallows humour. There was an old lag on my wing who was notoriously racist, sexist and homophobic. He was given the job of equalities rep.

I feel a modicum of gratitude for Khalife, as his astonishing escape propelled the issue of prison conditions into the spotlight on the very day my book on reoffending, *Time After Time*, hit the bookshelves. I spent Thursday doing back-to-back media interviews about the state of the prison system, achieving so much airtime that James O'Brien and Lewis Goodall both suggested that I'd personally facilitated the escape to get the exposure. I promise Khalife isn't hiding in my closet, but I'm glad the story has briefly shifted the public gaze on to this usually ignored topic and shown just how jails are failing society, staff and victims by becoming breeding grounds for violence and reoffending.

I'm frequently asked why the public should care about the plight of prisoners. In *Time After Time* I show a direct link between underfunding the justice system and sky-high levels of crime. Our utterly dysfunctional prisons are like hospitals that make patients more sick, as 45 per cent of ex-prisoners are reconvicted within a year of release. Reoffending costs the taxpayer more than £18 billion a year, so cutting the annual justice budget by almost £1 billion suddenly doesn't look so wise. Alex Chalk, the justice secretary, has announced an investigation into how Khalife could have escaped. I'd suggest he starts by grilling his front-bench colleagues who have enforced these relentless cuts.

My book follows the stories of repeat offenders who just can't go straight. I'm in a unique position to do this, as I'm both an ex-convict and an investigative journalist. Criminals are a naturally cagey bunch but I've known these characters since my own time inside and they see me as just another jailbird. By a remarkable coincidence, one of my contributors also escaped from a category-B prison, the same security level as Wandsworth, by pretending to be his own twin brother. Simon Maclellan was facing several years for GBH so persuaded his twin Mark to get locked up for drunk and disorderly. The brothers switched places and Simon walked straight out the front gate, triggering a similarly crazed manhunt and port queues. He was soon apprehended, but when it came to trial, the judge discovered the pair were non-identical twins who looked nothing like each other, and threw out the charges.

Like Khalife, Simon had simply exploited the glaring cracks in the system, making fools of the authorities and exposing the true cost of underfunding our prisons.

Chris Atkins is a Bafta-nominated film-maker and author.* Time After Time: Repeat Offenders — the Inside Stories*, by Chris Atkins, Atlantic Books, out now, £20 hardback

News

'We are talking about mental health. It's time for people in power to do their bit'

TV and radio presenter Roman Kemp is calling on the PM to offer more support to pupils, as **Kate McCann** hears



GEMMA DAY FOR THE TIMES

Roman Kemp, who has taken antidepressants since he was 15, said a strong family is often not enough to prevent suicide

It is hard to understand how a man like Roman Kemp could ever contemplate taking his own life, but that is entirely his point.

The successful TV and radio presenter is energetic and warm and has the rare ability to shed his celebrity status, making it feel like talking to a friend. Yet those are exactly the type of people who are most likely to end their own life, Kemp explains when we meet.

Sadly, he knows this to be true. Kemp considered ending his life in 2019 but turned back just in time. A year later his close friend and producer Joe Lyons chose the other fork in the road. He killed himself in a flat close to where Kemp was presenting the breakfast radio show, which they worked on together. The sense of responsibility he feels, of being almost close enough to reach out and pull his friend back from the brink, remains powerfully raw. It is the driving force behind his call for the government to put more money into mental health support in schools.

"That was Joe. That was someone that is the life and soul of the party. Someone that was constantly there for other people. But what you realise is that those people are so incredible at wearing that mask that they're lying to you, emotionally," he explains in an interview with Times Radio, to be broadcast on Sunday.

Those lies often breed an unwelcome emotion — hate. Kemp has spoken of his anger towards his friend after he took his own life and of how it took making his first documentary, *Our Silent Emergency*, to reach the "unfortunate understanding" that often those closest to you can be suffering without saying a word.

This deep understanding of both sides of the same tragic coin makes his call for the prime minister to put mental health support workers into every school all the more powerful.

In the letter, published on Twitter/X, Kemp urged the prime minister to ensure every child has access to mental health support in schools. He wrote: "Proper support needs to be in place for those who need it, and the sad reality is that in 2023, it's often individuals and charities who are trying to cover the gaps in a system that is becoming increasingly overwhelmed." He called on ministers to treat mental health like "the pandemic that it is".

Concern about the rate of suicide among young men has increased in recent years. Three quarters of those who take their own lives in England and Wales are male.

Despite concern that suicides would increase in the pandemic, the most recent figures show numbers have remained at about 5,500 people a year. But there has been a rise in young women ending their lives and fears that younger people in general are becoming more likely to consider suicide.

Kemp found himself struggling from the age of 15 when his mother urged him to talk about his emotions and he started taking antidepressants, which he has been on ever since. In 2019 he thought about jumping in front of a train but called his mother instead. Although he did not tell his family how close he had come to ending his life until much later, they recognised the crisis. His mother rushed to his home and asked his sister to stay on the phone to Kemp until she arrived.

Yet even with a strong family and fortunate start in life — Kemp's parents are the musician Martin Kemp and the singer Shirlie Holliman and his godfather was George Michael — he warns this is often not enough to prevent someone taking such a drastic choice.

"You are talking about life and death and a decision. And that's what's so sad about it, It's about hope. And clearly, maybe because of factors relating to how Joe had grown up and through his life, something clearly had happened where he had lost that hope and he had lost sight of … 'I can bring myself out of this'", he explains.

Joe had a similarly fortunate upbringing with a close-knit family unit but that did not prevent him from ending his life in 2020. Only days before, Kemp and a group of friends had met up with Joe in a park in London, one of the first occasions people were allowed to meet after lockdown, and had seen no signs of his turmoil. The photos of Joe smiling in the sunshine bring home the tragic reality of how impossible suicide can be to spot, especially in young men.

This explains the urgency of his call for more help for children, triggered by the recognition that the pandemic had a lasting impact on him and probably the next generation. Mental health was "heavily ignored" during that time, Kemp says, his desire not to stray into a political blame game forgotten for a brief moment.

"I would see so many adverts [during the pandemic] saying put a facemask on. But I never saw one advert saying, 'If you are feeling lonely through this, here's what you can do'. Imagine how terrifying that was as a child to go through that. You know, us as adults were scared … that trauma will carry on to when they're adults."

It is "insane" that children often do not receive mental health support unless they are in crisis — unless they have already attempted to take their own life, he says. Fears over how hard it is for parents to find support for children and teenagers are well-documented. Hundreds of thousands are said to be left untreated every year because of demand and funding pressures.

"What if that's too late? You know, what if they're successful that first time?" Kemp asks.

His enthusiasm and determination for change has already grabbed the attention of Wes Streeting, the shadow health secretary, who has pledged to do more.

Kemp has yet to receive a response to his letter from the government. And it is clear he is frustrated. The sadness he still feels at not being able to prevent his friend from ending his life is clear in the way he talks about government funding for mental health in schools.

"I was banging my head against the wall and kind of saying, I swear more people are talking about it … the awareness is high. But then you look at the numbers, you look at the suicide numbers and you see the rise … and you're just like, what are we doing wrong? Am I not telling people to talk enough? Is that what we need to keep doing? But I had to look at it from a different perspective and realise, hang on, everyone is doing their bit but we're doing as much as we can from our side. We are talking. Now it's time for the people in power to just do their side of it."

A government spokesman said: "Schools and colleges play a vital role in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

"School leaders should ensure they have clear systems and processes in place for identifying possible mental health problems. To expand access to early mental health support, we are also increasing the number of mental health support teams from 398 to approximately 500 in 2024."

Call the Samaritans free anytime on 116 123, email jo@samaritans.org or visit www.samaritans.org

HEAR THE INTERVIEW

Listen to Kate McCann and Adam Boulton on Times Radio tomorrow, 10am-1pm

thetimes.co.uk/radio

Crumbling concrete found at airports

Poppy Koronka

Two of the UK's busiest airports have detected the type of dangerous concrete that has forced the closure of hundreds of UK schools.

Heathrow and Gatwick, which collectively serve nearly 100 million passengers each year, said they were aware of the use of reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (Raac) before the material caused school closures last week.

The porous material is prone to cracking and corrosion as it ages and was commonly used between the 1960s and 1990s. As many as 147 schools are affected by the crumbling concrete, according to the government, with four teaching pupils online as a result.

Heathrow airport has known about the presence of Raac in Terminal 3 since last year and has already put in place measures to mitigate any risk.

"Industry has been aware and acting on the remedial steps that should be taken in buildings that contain this material," a Heathrow spokesperson said. "Passenger and colleague safety will always be our first priority."

It is not thought that the concrete in either airport will cause the same disruption as it has in schools.

Chris Goodier, a professor of construction engineering at Loughborough University, said that Raac poses much less of a threat at airports than at schools and hospitals. "There are people there running the place seven days a week with a big full-time maintenance team whose only job is to keep it running 24/7," he told the Financial Times.

A Gatwick spokesperson said: "We have a register of locations containing Raac . . . which are closely monitored. Our most recent inspection in June 2023 did not present any concerns."

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Convicted rapist jailed for attacking second woman

David Brown

A rapist who was recommended for deportation and carried out a second violent sex attack on a stranger less than two years after being freed from custody has been jailed for life.

Ramazan Mukalazi, 40, should have been returned to Uganda after being convicted of the anal rape of a young woman whom he threatened to kill while she was walking home in 2008.

He was released from immigration detention and carried out a second attack on a 66-year-old woman in Hounslow, west London, half a mile from the scene of the first rape. She suffered a brain haemorrhage. Mukalazi initially claimed he found his victim lying on the pavement and was trying to help her but later admitted attempted rape and grievous bodily harm.

Judge Paul Dugdale told Mukalazi at the Old Bailey: "You are a very violent man." He will serve a minimum of 11 years in jail.

Storm in a port: Apple's new iPhone to use the same charger as rivals

Mark Sellman
Technology Correspondent

On Tuesday Tim Cook, the Apple chief executive, is expected to sound the death knell for hundreds of millions of charging cables. His company is finally ending the anomaly of the iPhone using a different charger from every other smartphone.

Apple loves controlling its ecosystem from top to bottom: hardware, software and accessories. Regulators hate it, and this year the European Union passed a law that sought to force all consumer tech manufacturers to use the USB-C charging system. Brussels argued that different chargers create 11,000 tonnes of waste and €250 million in unnecessary extra costs. At one point there were 33 types of smartphone charger; this has now been reduced to USB-C and the iPhone's "lightning" cable.

Apple lobbied against the law, saying it would increase waste and was an example of governments stifling innovation. In the end it admitted it would comply, but did not say when or to what



The lightning cable, left, is set to make way for the standard USB-C, right

extent. Now, after leaks to Bloomberg which have not been denied, it appears that the iPhone 15, launching on Tuesday, will have a USB-C port worldwide, not just in Europe. Apple has already introduced USB-C for iPads and laptops, but dragged its heels for the iPhone. For those who use only Apple products, the change will mean cables need replacing. Apple was right in a way: this means waste in the short term.

According to the charity Recycle Your Electricals, there are enough cables stashed in UK homes to circle Earth five times. It says that if the copper in this stash was recycled it would save 140,000 tonnes of rock being blasted out of the ground and save 1,500 tonnes of CO_2 emissions. For many, talk of chargers sparks little enthusiasm. "It's a little sad [if the] biggest headline … of Apple's event will be the change to the connector on the bottom of the phone," said Ben Wood, chief analyst at technology researcher CCS Insight.

"Ten years ago … every launch event there were some terrific steps forward — massive advances in camera technology, screen technology. But we've moved towards this very predictable, incremental approach."

Beijing's bad news for Apple, page 41

AI tool could slash cost of IVF by picking best embryos

Rachel Sylvester

British women will soon be offered IVF with embryos selected by artificial intelligence. About a dozen clinics are preparing to introduce the AI-empowered fertility treatment that could improve the chances of a healthy pregnancy by as much as 30 per cent.

The AI tool, registered with the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency, selects the most viable embryo to be implanted. Doctors say that the device could reduce the cost of fertility treatment because fewer cycles of IVF would be required.

The technology was developed by AIVF, an Israeli start-up co-founded by Daniella Gilboa, an embryologist, and Professor Daniel Seidman, an IVF specialist. The company already operates in the EU, US, Australia, India and Brazil. A clinic in Ireland that has been using the software for a year has started offering "payment by results" for some patients because its outcomes have improved so dramatically.



Ciara Lawlor and John Kane cherish their baby John, born last year

Gilboa told The Times Health Commission that the number of healthy pregnancies increased by an average 30 per cent when embryos were chosen by the AIVF program. The company claims the time to pregnancy is typically reduced by more than 20 per cent.

"It's about reducing the uncertainties of the treatment," Gilboa said. "We can't change biology but we can help you predict and plan."

During IVF an egg is removed from the ovaries and fertilised in a laboratory. The fertilised egg, or embryo, is then returned to the womb to develop.

Conventionally, an embryologist decides the best embryo to implant. The AIVF tool analyses all the embryos in minute detail and can pick up flaws undetectable to the human eye.

The company claims its AI tool is 30 times faster and 38 times more accurate than an embryologist alone.

"IVF is an amazing technology," Gilboa said. "But most of the failures happen from the human in the loop. The AI is never tired, it is never angry, never hungry. It just looks and scans."

Gilboa said the technology could be adjusted to maximise the chances of success for different women, according to their age or medical history. "Each clinic gets an algorithm that is specific for them, based on their population," she said. "There's no such thing in biology as one size fits all." She insisted, however, that AI would not replace doctors. "At the end of the day, the embryologist makes the decision. But it's based on more information."

Dr David Walsh, founder of First IVF, which runs clinics in Dublin and Co Kildare, said the proportion of successful pregnancies had increased from 31 per cent to 50 per cent since he started using the AIVF system last year. The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority says the average rate in the UK is 29 per cent.

Walsh recently introduced a scheme under which patients pay half the cost of the treatment up front, with the rest withheld until they become pregnant. He said AI embryo selection had transformed the balance of risks for patients. "Knowledge is power," he added.

The clinic proved successful for Ciara Lawlor, who had been trying for a baby for almost three years, before John was born on July 23 last year. Lawlor, 30, who had endometriosis diagnosed as a teenager, turned to IVF after she struggled to conceive naturally with her husband, John Kane.

The First IVF clinic in Clane, Co Kildare, implanted two embryos in her womb that failed to result in a pregnancy. A third embryo was successful, with subsequent analysis using AI showing that the first two embryos scored much lower than the third — suggesting Lawlor would have had a higher chance of a successful pregnancy after her first implantation if the technology had been available earlier.

"You want as much information as possible," she said. "You go through an awful lot so anything that makes the journey shorter is a good thing."

PHILIP BROWN/POPPERFOTO





Freddie Flintoff helps the England team in Cardiff prepare to play New Zealand. He suffered facial injuries in a crash filming as a presenter for Top Gear

Flintoff is back in the field after crash

Freddie Flintoff has been pictured at his first public engagement since his accident while filming *Top Gear* for the BBC last year (Poppy Koronka and Elizabeth Ammon write).

Flintoff, the former England cricketer, was photographed leading some fielding drills with the national team at Sophia Gardens in Cardiff yesterday, before the first one-day international against New Zealand.

Flintoff suffered serious injuries last December in a car crash while filming in freezing conditions at the Dunsfold aerodrome in Surrey.

The presenter and a crew member were driving a three-wheel open-top Morgan Super 3 at 130mph when the vehicle flipped. Flintoff suffered serious facial injuries and broken ribs.

The car had no airbag and Flintoff, 45, had to wait 45 minutes for an air ambulance. He has quit his role as co-presenter on *Top Gear*. Filming for the 34th series of the BBC show was abandoned after the crash and a health and safety review is being conducted.

The Times reported last month that Clare Pizey, the editorial director, quit the show, fuelling speculation that it could be cancelled. A former staff member said: "Everyone is assuming that it's over for Top Gear now Clare has left."

Flintoff is friends with Rob Key, managing director of England cricket. He is working with the team during the four-match one-day international series against New Zealand.

He is an unpaid consultant for the next four matches. It is not thought that he will be travelling with the squad to the World Cup in India next month.

In the pictures, scars from the crash injuries can be seen on Flintoff's face.

The BBC has said it will continue to support Flintoff and insiders harbour hopes that he could be lured back for a second series of *Field of Dreams*, the cricketing programme about which he is believed to be passionate.

Flintoff had been preparing to take a team of underprivileged children from his home town of Preston, Lancashire, to play in India. Despite Flintoff's best efforts yesterday, the England team was defeated by the New Zealand eleven.

Ben's back, Sport pull-out

Sunak 'fired up' to win next election



Has the government's luck run out? One man is still confident, **Steven Swinford** and **Harry Yorke** write

Rishi Sunak had hoped to start the new parliamentary term on the front foot. Instead, he found himself mired by events once again — a scandal over concrete in schools nearly 30 years in the making, the imminent prospect of two damaging by-elections and a prison escape by a suspected terrorist.

With inflation also expected to rise again later this month, the pessimism and concern of some Tory MPs and senior Sunak allies is palpable.

"My worry is that our luck has run out and people just aren't listening any more," one former cabinet minister said. "We either need something to go right for us or very wrong for them. Neither is happening."

Asked if he considered himself unlucky during his flight to the G20 summit in Delhi, Sunak laughed before rejecting the suggestion outright. He instead said he was "fired up" and "entirely confident" that the Tories could win, highlighting a series of new appointments and the Tories' recent by-election victory in Uxbridge.

"I am entirely confident that we can win the next election, you had a sense of that just a couple of months ago in Uxbridge," he said. "In that by-election, when voters were confronted with an actual choice between us and the Labour Party on an issue of substance, what did they do? They voted for us.

"As you can see we've brought some new people in, these are high-quality people that are joining the team because they believe that we will win — they are hungry to win, I am hungry to win, and they are fired up to deliver it."

The worry among some senior figures in the Conservative Party is that Sunak's optimism is misplaced, and public opinion about the prime minister and the government may be near the point of no return.

One senior Tory adviser said: "Crumbling concrete, escaping prisoners — it all mounts up to a sense we aren't really in control."

Sunak's supporters argue that there is still time to turn it around. Isaac Levido, the Tory election strategist, repeated the central tenet of the strategy at an away day for Tory party staff in Uttoxeter, Staffordshire. The Labour vote is soft, he said, and the number of undecided voters is significant. "There is no great love for Starmer," Levido said.

The Conservative Party conference next month will mark the start of a shift in tone as Sunak seeks to present his long-term vision for government and begins to lay the groundwork for the Tory manifesto. Sunak will attempt to set out clear dividing lines between himself and Sir Keir Starmer and their approach to leadership.

One party worker said that Levido's implicit suggestion was that Sunak would attempt to frame himself as the candidate for change. "They are saying if you want change, change the government," Levido said. "But Starmer is just like all the same old politicians that have come before him, and if he's constantly changing his position to win votes, then nothing changes at all."

Others believe that there has been a marked change of attitude towards the Tories. James Frayne, a partner at the consultancy Public First, which carries out independent research into voter attitudes, said that since the early summer focus groups in both red wall seats and the southeast suggested that voters had stopped listening.

"Vast numbers of voters have packed in listening," he said. "Even big problems like school closures are being met with rolled eyes rather than real anger because they've decided this government is on its last legs."

Later this month inflation will hit what Jeremy Hunt, the chancellor, has described as a "blip". It is expected to rise again, driven by increases in the price of clothing and fuel, before falling significantly for the rest of the year.

The timing, however, is awkward for Sunak because it means the Tory conference will begin against a backdrop of rising inflation. Cabinet ministers, however, privately believe that it is time for Sunak to cast aside his natural caution and return to the more bullish approach he took at the end of the Tory leadership contest against Liz Truss.

There are likely to be immediate pitfalls after the Conservative Party conference. The resignations of Nadine Dorries and Chris Pincher will leave the Tories facing two-by elections, both of which they could lose despite huge majorities. One minister said that a repeat of Selby & Ainsty, where the Tories lost a 20,000 majority earlier this year, would not be fatal.

"The bigger question is what happens in the general election," the minister said. "If there is a repeat of what happened in Selby to anywhere near the same extent then we're finished."

Sunak can at least take some succour that Boris Johnson appears to be respecting the uneasy truce between them. The former prime minister, who yesterday visited President Zelensky in Ukraine, congratulated the government after the UK rejoined the Horizon science programme.

Senior Tories acknowledge it has been a good week for Starmer. The party's success in capitalising on the Raac concrete scandal in schools with more than 200 advertisements on social media was viewed as a success on both sides of the political divide.

Starmer and his most senior aides remain concerned that much of their lead in the polls is down to voters who want the Tories out, rather than wanting Labour in. The Labour leader will shortly begin to set out a more positive vision of his agenda for government, starting with the issue of migration.

As for Sunak, he is determined to enjoy a couple of days in India away from the grind of domestic political problems. Yesterday he and his wife, Akshata Murty, went on a date night after a bilateral meeting with Narendra Modi, the Indian prime minister, was postponed. For Sunak there are not likely to be many more such breaks on the slog to the next general election.

Additional reporting by Oliver Wright and Lara Spirit



Boris Johnson visited President Zelensky in Ukraine yesterday





PM too busy for reunion banquet with Indian relatives

Amrit Dhillon Delhi

As Rishi Sunak arrives in India for his first official visit as prime minister, elation has turned to disappointment for relatives who were hoping to have him round for a family reunion.

The prime minister's intense schedule in Delhi has forced relatives on his mother's side to abandon the idea of a celebratory banquet.

Instead they had to make do with watching from afar as Sunak met a group of children practising football in the courtyard of the British Council building.

Sunak's parents are both of Indian origin and came to the UK from east Africa in the 1960s. His wife, Akshata Murty, who is accompanying him on the trip, is the daughter of Narayana Murthy, 77, the billionaire technology entrepreneur, and Sudha Murty, 73, the philanthropist and educator.

Family members on both sides have basked in the reflected glory of Sunak attaining the UK's highest office but few of his relatives in northern India have met him, nor were they invited to his 2009 wedding in Bangalore.

Some relatives of his mother, Usha, last met her in 1978 on a trip to India after her marriage, although she and her husband, Yashvir, have returned to the north of the country since.

Dr Gautam Dev Sood, 60, a dentist in Gurgaon, outside the Indian capital, and a cousin of Usha, was reported to have been preparing to host a reunion party this weekend. Sood declined to comment but Subhash Berry, 75, a widower whose late wife was Usha's cousin, said that the Sunaks had quashed the idea of a party.

"When Gautam visited England last month, he met Usha and Rishi and they instructed him not to make any fuss over the visit — no celebrations, no party, no photos," Berry said. "That's their style, they are private people."

Based in the noisy, congested industrial hub of Ludhiana, where his family owns a cotton factory, Berry is one of many relatives on Sunak's maternal side who are wealthy industrialists, living in elite neighbourhoods around Punjab, Delhi and Gurgaon, in northern India.

Rakesh Sood, whose wife, Veena, is another maternal cousin, owns Indiana Acids and Chemicals, also in Ludhiana — nicknamed India's "Benz City" because of the number of Mercedes cars owned by its wealthy families.

Sood, 70, confirmed that Sunak's mother had ruled out a reunion. "We last saw Usha during her visit to India in 1978 after her marriage," he said.

"It's been a very long time. But Usha told my wife that this visit would be far too hectic, what with the summit, and that Rishi would have no time. She said we should plan for a family reunion on her next visit."

Berry admits the relatives like to boast that "my cousin's son is the prime minister of Britain".

Sunak has said relatively little in interviews about his parents, a GP and pharmacist from Southampton, but has said that he is "incredibly proud of my in-laws".

In an interview with Press Trust of India before the summit, the prime minister, 43, said the response from the Indian people to his appointment in Downing Street had been "overwhelming and humbling".

A senior government figure who travelled to India last month has suggested the feeling is mutual, telling Politico that Sunak would "get completely mobbed" in Delhi.

Reports have speculated that the prime minister could return to India in the final week of October or first week of November to sign off a trade deal, in a visit that could coincide with the Cricket World Cup.

Modi's "Big Brother" state, page 36

DAN KITWOOD/GETTY IMAGES





Rishi Sunak meeting local schoolchildren at the British Council in Delhi with his wife Akshata Murty, who also took part in a kickabout and changed outfits after setting off from Stansted and touching down in the Indian capital



Leaders downbeat about reaching consensus at G20

Oliver Wright, Harry Yorke Delhi

World leaders face a "challenging" G20 summit, Rishi Sunak admitted yesterday as the head of the United Nations said that "eroding trust" between the most powerful countries in the world risked global "fragmentation, and ultimately, confrontation".

In downbeat remarks before the meeting in Delhi, Antonio Guterres warned that planned G20 action on climate change was lacking "ambition, credibility, and urgency". He also said that the continuing divisions over Ukraine and tensions between the West and China made it hard to reach consensus on issues of global importance. "If we are indeed one global family, we today resemble a rather dysfunctional one," he said.

Sunak, who arrived for the summit yesterday, also struck a downbeat note, admitting that there had been little progress in agreeing a joint statement of principles across a range of areas.

"We're not there yet," Sunak told Bloomberg on the plane to Delhi. "You have to recognise the G20 is different to the G7. These things are always going to be challenging."

Indian diplomats have struggled to build consensus across a number of issues before the two-day meeting.

China has supported Russia by avoiding any language that would implicitly criticise Putin for the invasion of Ukraine. Western countries have said that they will not sign up to any communiqué that weakens last year's statement on the war by the G20.

Sunak signalled that he wanted China to commit itself to the same form of words on Ukraine that was agreed at the G20 summit in Bali, Indonesia. The G20 "worked really hard at Bali" to come to an agreement, he said.

On climate change, the group is divided on commitments to phasing out fossil fuel use, increasing renewable energy targets and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. India, China and Saudi Arabia have opposed a proposal by western countries to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 60 per cent by 2035.

Guterres said that the climate crisis was "spinning out of control" and urged world leaders to reshape global financial rules which he described as outdated and unfair. "The climate crisis is worsening dramatically but the collective response is lacking in ambition, credibility, and urgency," he said in a speech.

"I have put forward a climate solidarity pact in which big emitters make extra efforts to cut emissions, and wealthier countries support emerging economies to achieve this," Guterres said.

The plan urges developed countries to reach net zero as close as possible to 2040, and emerging economies as close as possible to 2050, proposing a phasing out of coal by 2030 in OECD countries and 2040 in all others.

Sunak said he was open to meeting Li Qiang, the Chinese prime minister, who will attend the summit after President Xi decided not to travel to India.

"There's a range of people that I'll be expecting to try and speak to," he said. "I look forward to engaging with everybody on the issues that matter to the UK and where we can make progress on things that are important to the British public and to the government."

The G20 summit will take place today and tomorrow with Sunak expected to speak on the topics of migration, the global economy, Ukraine and climate change. He condemned Russia's decision to pull out of the Black Sea grain initiative in July, which allowed ships carrying grain to leave southern Ukrainian ports without fear of attack.

"Russia's pulled out of that deal, you've seen prices go up and typically that has an impact, not just at home in the UK, but as I said, on millions of vulnerable people. I'll be highlighting that devastating impact so that people are aware of what's happening and put pressure on Russia to cease attacking civilian infrastructure in Ukraine."

Putin has said the deal, brokered by Turkey and the United Nations, will not be restored until the West meets Moscow's demands on its own agricultural exports. The pact, first signed in July last year, led to 33 million tonnes of grain and food exports leaving Ukraine, with the majority going to developing nations struggling for food supplies, according to the UN.

Putin will not attend the Delhi meeting in person but his foreign minister, Sergey Lavrov, is expected to attend.

Sunak, when pressed on the importance of reaching an agreement on condemning Moscow over the war, said: "The G20 is a broad group of countries and they have different perspectives, but it's still important to be talking to people, to be engaging, to highlighting things like Russia's aggression and the impact it's having. I think we can be proud of the role we play as the Brits here, highlighting these important issues, doing our bit to make a difference."

Free-trade deal with Delhi would be immense prize, leading article, page 25

Plea for fellow Tories to turn backs on right-wing ideologues

Steven Swinford Political Editor

The Conservatives must not become the party of "throwback nationalist populism" and should reject the views espoused by "ideologues" on the right, leading centrist Tories have warned.

The One Nation caucus and Tory Reform Group will hold a conference in London today as they seek to challenge the "enthusiastic extremes".

Writing for the Times website, Damian Green, the former cabinet minister and chairman of the One Nation group, and Siobhan Aarons, co-chairwoman of the Tory Reform Group, said it was a "complete misreading" of the Tories to assume they were right-wing.

"A casual observer of the Conservative Party would be excused for thinking that the bulk of members are all too keen to move away from our style of politics to throwback/nationalist populism," they said.

"Often the loudest voices are heard in the media, but this is a complete misreading of where the centre of gravity of the modern Conservative Party lies. There are thousands of activists and longstanding members up and down the country who espouse a centrist type of conservatism. Maybe we have been too quiet for too long."

For the Tories to succeed they must be "tolerant", they said. "In the first-past-the-post electoral system, a successful party must appeal to people who are not at the enthusiastic extremes.

"The Conservative Party is the home for millions of people in all parts of the country who are tolerant, believe in fair play, and are looking for government that enables each of us to make the most of our own lives while also helping those who are less fortunate."

They said that "sensible Tories" recognised that dropping 2019 manifesto commitments such as the 2050 net-zero target would "not only be a bad policy decision but a terrible own goal".

They said that leaving the European Court of Human Rights — a move pushed by those on the right of the party — would be a "profound mistake".

"The idea being floated by some of leaving the European Convention on Human Rights [ECHR] is a classic example of a notion loved by ideologues but rejected by the majority of the electorate," they say. "Leaving would be a profound mistake — risking the peace in Northern Ireland, damaging our reputation overseas and collapsing security agreements with the EU."

Suella Braverman, the home secretary, who is on the right of the party, favours leaving the ECHR. Rishi Sunak has refused to rule out leaving the ECHR if plans to send migrants to Rwanda are blocked by the courts.

The One Nation group of 80 Tory MPs includes several ministers, including Alex Chalk, the justice secretary, Gillian Keegan, the education secretary, Tom Tugendhat, the security minister, and Victoria Prentis, the attorney-general.

The group makes clear its support for Sunak: "Moderate, centrist, Conservatives want a government which honestly recognises the challenges facing this country. Addressing them head-on and being responsible with taxpayers' money, having long-term generational thinking and recognising the importance of constructive relations with foreign partners.

"What does this mean in practice for the government as we approach the general election? We need first to regain the reputation for competence in government which was so damaged by the dramas of 2022.

"Action is more important than rhetoric. The slow but steady fall in the inflation rate, fulfilling one of the prime minister's five pledges, is a good illustration of how this can be achieved."

Read the full article at thetimes.co.uk

News Politics

Starmer's boost for first-time buyers

Geraldine Scott Political Reporter



ALAMY

Sir Keir Starmer is shown the extent of a new housing development in east London. Help for first-time home buyers is expected to be a theme in Labour campaigns

Labour is preparing to pitch to first-time buyers at the next election, as the clearest indication yet of Sir Keir Starmer's policy direction is published next week.

The basis of Labour's manifesto is expected to be released in the coming days, with insiders expecting a "barnacles off the boat" approach.

Insiders expect a higher profile for home-building policies and help to get people on the property ladder after Angela Rayner, the deputy leader, took over the housing brief. "She'll probably give housing that extra bit of prominence," one said.

The report is expected to include an expansion of a previously announced plan to give first-time buyers the initial option on new developments.

Party figures are understood to believe foreign investors and second-home owners are squeezing out first-time buyers. Some developments across the country are being sold in their entirety before being built.

The policy will not apply in all areas but agreements would be struck with developers to offer a portion of housing to local buyers first. The report will say: "We will also give first-time buyers first dibs on new developments in their area, ensuring investors cannot buy up new developments 'off-plan' before they are even advertised to local families."

Labour has set out ambitions to boost home ownership to 70 per cent, with part of that being a mortgage guarantee scheme in which the state would act as guarantor for those struggling to raise a deposit. According to the Office for National Statistics, in the 2021 census 62.5 per cent of households owned their accommodation. A party source predicted a focus on affordable housing and told of discussions about a targeted programme to help certain groups.

Another insider said Rayner was "pro-homebuilding", pointing to a visit with Starmer to a housing development in June. The source said she was "rare" in Westminster, having lived in council housing. Rayner told the Local Government Association this year that the country should "roll up its sleeves and build things".

The expected release of the policy guide comes after the party held its National Policy Forum (NPF) in Nottingham in July. The meeting, overseen by Anneliese Dodds, the party chairwoman, involved consultations on party positions put forward by policy-makers, the submitting of amendments and a report to be released before the Labour conference next month.

The paper is expected to kill off any future controversies and tighten the iron grip of Rachel Reeves, the shadow chancellor, on the purse strings.

The Times revealed this week one of the key phrases was that the fiscal rules would be "non-negotiable". It will say that the rules "will apply to every decision taken by a Labour government, with no exceptions".

A similar message has been given to shadow cabinet members told to submit their plans and desired policy announcements by the end of yesterday.

"It's all quite fluffy stuff," a source said of the NPF report. "We were quite constrained."

Some contentious topics were removed, indicating Starmer's reluctance to give the Tories any ammunition before the next election. The report has backed away from wholehearted support of clean air zones after it lost the Uxbridge by-election over the expansion of the ultra-low emissions zone in London.

A senior Labour source said the report would show "a serious, credible and ambitious policy programme that lays the groundwork for an election-winning manifesto". The insider added: "This document is another proof point that shows that Keir Starmer has changed the Labour Party and is ready to change the country in government built on the rock of economic responsibility and strong fiscal rules."

Building controls are strangling growth, leading article, page 25

Corbyn may win London ... for Tories

Patrick Maguire

Jeremy Corbyn would effectively deny Sadiq Khan a third term as London mayor if he runs for City Hall as an independent candidate next year, polling for Times Radio has found.

A survey of voters in London found that the former Labour leader would come third with 15 per cent of the vote if he stood against Khan. In doing so he would hand victory to Susan Hall, the Conservative.



Jeremy Corbyn could take on Sadiq Khan

She polled at 30 per cent when Corbyn was included alongside the candidates who have formally declared, while Khan polled at 25 per cent. Some 21 per cent of voters who backed Khan in the last mayoral election said they would back Corbyn, the survey by Redfield & Wilton Strategies found. Changes to the system used to elect England's mayors mean Hall would win even without a majority of votes.

While previous London elections have been held over two rounds, with second preference votes reallocated to first and second-placed candidates, the election next year will be a first-past-the-post contest. Corbyn, who has been barred from standing for Labour in his parliamentary seat of Islington North, has refused to rule out a mayoral run.

Some in his inner circle have urged him to stand but doubts remain over his ability to fund a campaign. The Times revealed this year that he had resolved to run to retain his Commons seat as an independent.

About 43 per cent of London voters think Corbyn should stand for the mayoralty and 37 per cent say he would make a good mayor.

The survey suggests Khan faces a trickier contest than expected — even if Corbyn does not stand. His approval rating has fallen by 22 percentage points to 5 per cent since the pollster last surveyed London in June.

The mayor, who has been criticised over the expansion of the ultra-low emissions zone, polled top when voters were presented only with declared candidates — by a single point.

Khan polled at 33 per cent when Corbyn was excluded, with Hall on 32 per cent, Rob Blackie, the Liberal Democrat candidate, on 16 per cent and Zoë Garbett, for the Greens, on 9 per cent.

Redfield & Wilton, who are members of the British Polling Council, surveyed a representative sample of 1,110 eligible London voters on September 5 and 6.

Net-zero targets 'hampering fight against inflation'

Robert Miller

A former governor of the Bank of England has warned that the amount of resources being dedicated to meeting net-zero targets has weakened the central bank's ability to fight inflation.

Lord King of Lothbury, who as Mervyn King was governor of the Bank for ten years until 2013, said it made "absolutely no sense" to add net zero to the Bank's growing list of responsibilities, saying that climate change had become the "straw [that] breaks the camel's back".

Britain's influence on achieving global net-zero emissions was negligible and the government had put too much emphasis on "arbitrary dates" banning petrol and diesel cars as well as gas boilers, King told The Daily Telegraph.

"The Bank of England can do nothing about climate change," he added. "It's not even obvious that the biggest and most immediate risks to the stability of the banking system are coming from climate change, as opposed to pandemics or cybersecurity or excess lending to commercial property. So to have a special focus on that doesn't, in my view, make any sense."

It comes after Andrew Bailey, the Bank governor, admitted in May that the central bank had made errors in its UK inflation forecasts, conceding it had some "very big" lessons to learn.

He has also argued there is "no excuse" for failing to tackle climate change, but insisted it is not the Bank's job to help "the world adjust".

Rishi Sunak updated the Bank's remit in 2021 as chancellor, instructing policymakers at the institution to support growth and enable the "transition to a net-zero economy".

"In my view, the range of its responsibilities has been expanded too far. When the Bank was made independent in 1997, essentially its only area of major responsibility was monetary policy," King said. "I think there is a real danger that just if you keep adding things, eventually the straw breaks the camel's back. And I think climate change was certainly that because they've [the Bank] got the number of speeches given on climate change, amount of time and effort devoted to it, the number of top level people working on it. You just need more of those people doing monetary policy and making sure we get it right."

The government has set a target of net zero by 2050 and has committed to banning the sale of all petrol and diesel cars by 2030.

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'Bernstein was like a puppy — but he'd be cancelled now'

As she prepares for the Last Night of the Proms, Marin Alsop tells **Neil Fisher** about her hands-on mentor



Marin Alsop is conducting the Last Night of the Proms for the third time, having been in 2013 the first woman to do so. She was mentored by the late Leonard Bernstein, below, who showed a lot of affection but was "extremely supportive of women"

It's more than 30 years since the death of Leonard Bernstein, but the world is having a fresh bout of Lennymania. Last week Bradley Cooper's new film *Maestro* — Cooper both directs and plays the conductor-composer — was greeted rapturously by critics on its premiere in Venice.

Few on the planet have a greater connection to the lionised American musician than Marin Alsop, 66, who will conduct the *Last Night of the Proms* on Saturday for the third time in her career, but even Bernstein's one-time protégée admits that the bisexual maestro would have fallen foul of today's codes: "Every day he would have been cancelled."

At aged nine, growing up in New York, Alsop watched Bernstein's Young People's Concerts. Years later, she became his most fêted student. The videos of mentoring sessions show how hands-on he was — hands, indeed, everywhere.

"He was the most affectionate human being I've ever met. He was like a large puppy. I mean, he'd be coming towards us students and everybody would be like 'OK, duck!' He'd kiss you, smack you on the lips. I don't think there was anything untoward about it. I never felt that way anyway. But he definitely would have been cancelled."

We're talking shortly after another conductor, Sir John Eliot Gardiner, was forced to withdraw from the Proms after allegedly punching a young singer in a post-performance altercation. "I don't understand that behaviour in any way, shape or form," Alsop says. "I have extreme respect for his musical work. I'm hopeful when I hear that he's going into therapy. But, he's 80 years old. Did this just come up?"

Bernstein, however, was a beacon of progress for Alsop. When she met him she had already been rejected from the conducting programme at the Juilliard School. He, however, encouraged her. "He was extremely supportive of women, particularly as conductors."

There was a breakthrough during Alsop's time being mentored by Bernstein when, after one performance she'd conducted, he didn't go for the usual hug but sat deep in thought. "I said, 'Maestro, is everything all right?' And he said: 'I can't figure it out. When I close my eyes, I can't tell that you're a woman.' I understood what he was saying to me. He was trying to work it out — that there really is no difference."

Alsop has not seen *Maestro*, but, knowing about her relationship with Bernstein, Cooper was in touch with her during the film's production. "He sent me some photos from the shoot. He wanted to share the process … 'How does this feel to you? Does this look like him?' I didn't feel like he was trying to be imitative. It seemed that he was much more about feeling the emotion in the moment, and that was the essence of Lenny."

For Alsop, the Bernstein legacy is complex. "He always used to say, 'Don't imitate me — but do it like this!'" she laughs. "I can't say the influence hasn't weighed heavily."

Perhaps it's his example that brings her to the *Last Night of the Proms* for the third time, after 2013 and 2015. In 2013 she was the first woman to conduct the BBC's annual fiesta. "The promenaders decorated my podium with pink balloons that said, 'It's a girl!' I thought it was hysterical." She is perfectly happy to conduct the traditional patriotic songs. "It doesn't feel xenophobic to me. It just feels very British." What seems to inspire her more is the televised speech delivered by the *Last Night* conductor. "It's hard for me to avoid the same themes. So I won't. I want to talk about inequality."



She will be speaking not just about women's rights overall but gender inequality in music too. Strides have been made for female conductors but the pace of improvement isn't good enough. "With women, historically, it's been, you know, 'You should be happy for what you have. Don't push people — they've done a lot already!' There's always this sort of patronising approach."

Giving women more opportunities in classical music also means accepting that, at least at first, they might not shine. "Men can fail and fine, they get a second chance. But women fail, everyone says, 'See!' And it's really important to be able to fail." Such lessons are taught by Alsop on her programme for women, the Taki Alsop Conducting Fellowship, run by Alsop's wife, the former horn player Kristin Jurkscheit.

Beyond the *Last Night of the Proms*, Alsop will be more visible in the UK over the coming years. Next month she begins a new role as principal guest conductor of the Philharmonia in London with a new series on American 20th century music, *Let Freedom Ring*. "It's an exploration of the cross-pollination between jazz and classical music particularly, one of my passions."

The Last Night of the Proms is at the Royal Albert Hall tonight and on BBC2 from 7pm, BBC1 from 9pm; Alsop conducts the Philharmonia at the Royal Festival Hall on October 19

Mike Yarwood, master of the modern political impersonation

Laurence Sleator

Mike Yarwood, the comedian best known for his masterful impersonations of Harold Wilson and Ted Heath, has died at the age of 82.

At its height his BBC comedy show attracted up to 18 million viewers as he portrayed personalities that as well as the Labour and Conservative prime ministers included the football manager Brian Clough and the political interviewer Sir Robin Day.

Wilson, in office for almost eight years in two terms between 1964 and 1976, awarded him an OBE. Yarwood's impression of Heath made much of the politician's distinctive laughter. Margaret Thatcher was also known to be a fan.

Appearing on television throughout the Sixties and Seventies on both the BBC and ITV, Yarwood saw his career reached its apogee in 1977 when 21.4 million people tuned in to watch *The Mike Yarwood Christmas Show*. It remains one of the most watched programmes in British history.

His death was announced by the Royal Variety Charity, which is dedicated to those who served the entertainment industry. Yarwood was close to the charity and he spent his later years at Brinsworth House, its care home in west London. Before this he lived in Weybridge, Surrey.

The charity said: "On Friday, September 8, at the age of 82, Mike bid farewell to this world, after spending his latter years at the Royal Variety Charity's care home. He leaves behind an immeasurable void."





Mike Yarwood with his pipe as Harold Wilson and red nose as Brian Clough

The charity said that he became a household name with his variety shows, attracting huge audiences. "Mike's family have asked that their privacy be respected during this sad and difficult time," it said.

Yarwood was born on June 14, 1941, in Bredbury, Cheshire, and was a lifelong supporter of Stockport County football club, almost pursuing a professional career as a player. After leaving school he worked as a messenger then a salesman at a warehouse, but was also touring pubs and the club circuit learning his craft. Eventually he was spotted by a TV producer who gave him his first shot and his career soon blossomed.

However, in the late 1980s, as the main subjects of his gentle ridicule left public life, Yarwood's fame ebbed. His show was not renewed on Thames TV and he dropped away from screens as his struggles with alcoholism began to affect his performance. After a heart attack in 1990 he became teetotal.

He was married to Sandra Burville from 1969 until 1985, and is survived by their daughters Charlotte and Clare.

Bullish Birmingham bosses count the cost of sexist pay

Mario Ledwith, Geraldine Scott

Having tolerated decades of frustration at outsiders' often dim view of their city, Birmingham's residents responded last summer by throwing one hell of a party.

After 12 days of hosting a vibrant Commonwealth Games, an overwhelming feeling of positivity coursed through the city. Such optimism was inevitably latched on to by local politicians, further energised by the economic promise awaiting if and when HS2 is finally completed.

For Labour, which has long held control of Birmingham's council, a mantra was embraced during the Games that promised the beginning of a "golden decade" for the city. On Tuesday morning, in a drab meeting room at the council's grade II* listed headquarters on Victoria Square, those bountiful visions were obliterated.

Standing in for John Cotton, the council's leader who was in New York to celebrate his 50th birthday, its deputy leader, Sharon Thompson, told the glum faces before her that the council had effectively been declared bankrupt.

The decision to issue a Section 114 notice signals years of pain for the city's residents, with jobs at risk, a fire sale of assets likely and services facing collapse as budgets are slashed.

For multiple people who have worked with the council, the financial collapse was not only wholly expected but preventable.

As Rishi Sunak decides what to do with the authority, a blame game for the financial disaster has begun.

Years of austerity under Conservative governments in Westminster, which pushed the council into making cuts of £728 million in the decade until 2020, are one suggested reason.

Others have highlighted a failure of city leadership, with six people serving in the highly paid chief executive role in the past six years.

However, for many in the orbit of the local authority, the collapse falls directly at the door of the local Labour group, which has held the keys to the city hall for 12 years.

Concerns about the "dysfunctional climate" within the group were raised by the national Labour Party this year in a report that also included claims of misogyny.

At the heart of the council's financial perils is an issue that has stood stubbornly before the authority throughout Labour's long rule.

Unlike councils such as Croydon, Thurrock and Slough, whose disastrous property investments led them to declare effective bankruptcy, Birmingham's woes primarily relate to the treatment of its staff. Since a landmark Supreme Court ruling in 2012, the council has paid out £1.1 billion in compensation to thousands of mostly female staff in equal pay claims. The claims, made under Blair-era equality laws, involved thousands of staff in female-dominated roles, such as cooks and cleaners, who were paid less than men in similar roles.

Yet rather than resolving discrimination within its ranks, the council recently revealed that it faces a bill of up to £760 million in further claims. Some insiders said this could be the tip of the iceberg. After months of warnings, the council was pushed into pressing the panic button when auditors said they could not sign off the last two years' accounts because of the mountainous bill and the lack of money to pay it.

The conclusion was in stark contrast to the council's 2022 financial plan, in which it stated that provisions for equal pay disputes stood at £154 million with a "very low" risk of materialising.

As the prime minister, who ruled out a bailout earlier this year, considers whether to provide assistance to the council, questions are being asked about how its finances were allowed to deteriorate so badly.

For Max Caller, a local government expert who was brought in to assist the council in 2019, long-running leadership battles within Labour and the inability to form good working relation-



The opening ceremony for last year's



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Liberal Democrats'

Ben Ellery

One Friday last month Heather Williams, leader of south Cambridgeshire's Conservative councillors, walked around the council's headquarters and made a note of the number of staff.

In the building, which serves as the operations centre for the area's 162,000 residents and has a capacity for about 450 workers, Williams counted six employees. The three-storey building, which has 64,500 sq ft of office space, was virtually empty because of an experiment by the Liberal Democrat-led council to give staff a four-day week.

In January, South Cambridgeshire district council began the trial for its office-based staff in an effort to improve their wellbeing. Employees were given one day a week to do as they see fit while on full pay as part of a series of trials spearheaded by a group called the 4 Day Week Campaign. It says that 92 per cent of around 50 organisations taking part have decided to continue with the four-day week after the pilot.

Yet Williams told The Times that on the day she made her headcount, an elderly resident was turned away from the office because there was no one from the department to help him.

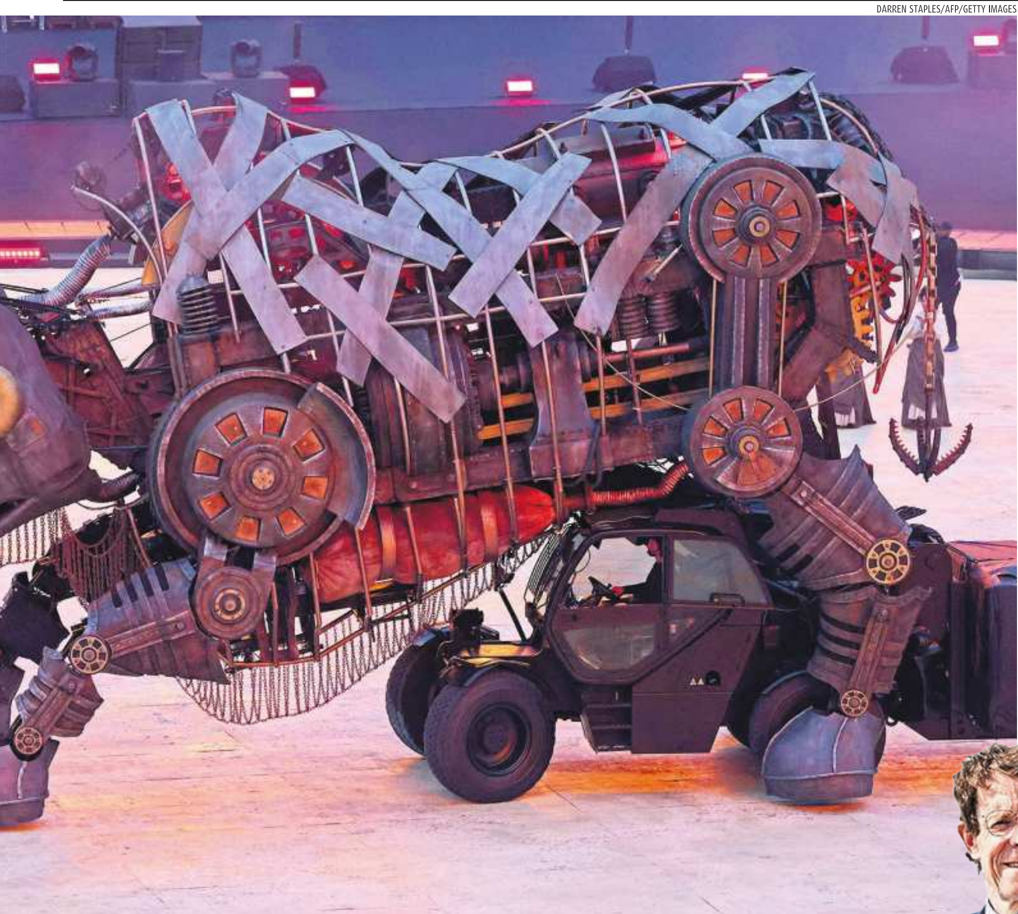
"The number one priority of the council should be acting in the interests of the residents, who pay their taxes. But the council is more concerned with giving everyone a day off," she said.

"We haven't even been allowed a vote on it. I would hold my hands up if the residents were consulted on it and the majority supported it then fair enough. But that's not what's happened."

On Wednesday The Times visited the offices, in Cambourne, and our reporter found rows of desks empty. As well as the four-day week programme, the council offers a hybrid work-from-home scheme which requires staff to be in the office only once a fortnight.

Unlike schemes which offer the chance to work compressed hours — the same number in total, but in just four days — Cambridge council gives staff a day off, on full pay.

DARREN STAPLES/AFP/GETTY IMAGES





Commonwealth Games, which went ahead despite financial fears. Right: Andy Street, West Midlands mayor

ships with chief executives made "life very difficult".

Caller had joined other executives in warning at the time that the "budget hole" caused by equal pay disputes needed to be addressed, even urging the cancellation of the Commonwealth Games. The council picked up about £184 million of the £778 million bill to stage the sporting event, but Caller said his concerns were over the amount of attention and resources the event would take away from council finances.

On the Section 114 order, Caller said: "In some senses it was probably five years too late." A Labour source admitted that "things were missed" because of the Games.

In 2015 the long-standing leader of the council, Sir Albert Bore, resigned following criticism over the Trojan Horse affair and after being forced to face four leadership challenges in five years. The same year, pressures over equal pay claims forced the council to sell off venues to raise cash, including the National Exhibition Centre (NEC) for £307 million.

Also scrutinising the council's performance at the time was an "improvement panel" established by the then local government secretary Sir Eric Pickles. When it reported four years later, the panel highlighted "denial, defensiveness and push-back" about the extent of the council's problems.

In 2019, the council's auditor issued a rare Section 24 notice that warned of "unique financial risks". The notice, requiring the council to take action, noted it was "difficult to quantify the extent of the risk" posed by equal pay claims. That year the council had to use £30.5 million of its reserves to operate.

In February last year, the Labour council leader, Ian Ward, whose pay package was more than £75,000, declared to a council meeting that its finances were in "arguably the healthiest position they have been for 30 years". However, Robert Alden, leader of the Conservative group, said that auditors had privately been "putting pressure" on the city to take action over equal pay for two years.

Council officials have been in talks with unions without success since 2020 to establish a job evaluation scheme aimed at ending discrimination. Over that period, the extent of the liability was increasing by up to £14 million a month. An individual involved with the negotiations said pay discrimination had become a "Frankenstein's monster" which the council never sought to properly fix after huge payouts a decade ago.

The GMB union has more than 3,000 open claims against the council, more than 90 per cent of them involving women, and the majority involving teaching and support staff in schools.

Michelle McCrossen, an organiser for the union, said the council was "responsible for creating this crisis through years of discriminating against their own staff".

In further embarrassment to the council, it is believed that measures adopted in 2019 to end a 700-day bin worker dispute that left rubbish piled on the streets led to many of the claims.

With no-win no-fee lawyers circling, there are concerns that the adoption of "task and finish" practices, which allow workers to leave a shift once certain tasks are completed — which has mostly benefited male refuse workers — could open up a new batch of claims.

Other issues include the introduction of a new computer system. The Oracle software, originally estimated to cost £19 million and running years overdue, could end up costing some £100 million.

With a government-backed review into multiple issues at the council due to report and a judge-led inquiry into the equal pay liability commissioned, heads are expected to roll over the crisis.

Labour and union figures want the officers working under Deborah Cadman, the council's chief executive who earned a pay package of £186,000 in 2022, to be held accountable.

Scrutiny will also centre on Cotton, who became leader of the council in May after being picked by the national Labour Party following the removal of his predecessor, Ward, over the internal party report. Cotton, who chaired the council's scrutiny committee between 2018 and 2019, is a long-serving Labour activist who has been a councillor since 1999, barring a two-year break. He is still believed to be on the long-planned holiday in New York with his wife. Despite criticism of the trip, Fiona Greenway, the interim finance director, said that council executives were only given a few hours' notice of the Section 114 notice on Monday evening, by which time Cotton was already en route to the US.

Cotton's daughter told MailOnline that her father would not return to the UK until Monday and although it was not a "good look" for him to remain on holiday, he was "only a human being and deserved a birthday treat".

When Cotton returns he faces a race against time. The council will have to present a financial action plan by the end of the month, with an £87 million shortfall in this year's budget.

The Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, led by Michael Gove, will consider what support to offer and whether to send in commissioners to take charge.

Andy Street, the Tory mayor of the West Midlands, met Gove and the chancellor, Jeremy Hunt, on Thursday and warned that businesses and residents "should not bear the brunt".

For Rob Whiteman, a former non-executive adviser to the council, there were "no surprises" in Birmingham's collapse given the long-running nature of its issues. Whiteman, the head of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, pointed out that councils across the country were struggling to balance the books.

Although its ability to raise money through business rates increased in the decade until 2020, government funding to Birmingham council fell by 77.8 per cent. Its overall spending power fell by 36.3 per cent in the same period.

High inflation and funding pressures have led to concern that more than two dozen further councils could issue Section 114 notices in the next two years.

Whiteman said: "I don't think Birmingham is a terrible council but nobody would claim that it is a really well-run council which is as efficient as possible. And in the current environment you have to be a really well run, high-performing council in order to survive."

For the Conservative opposition in Birmingham, the situation is a "tragic failure" of Birmingham's residents. Alden said: "All the way through the last decade, the administration had been warned that they needed to do a job evaluation scheme to resolve these situations. The failure to do that consistently is just astonishing."

very liberal 4-day week (and very empty office)

After its three-month pilot finished in April, the council trumpeted it as a success, claiming key performance indicators (KPIs) were the same or better than when staff worked five days a week. Bridget Smith, the council's Liberal Democrat leader, excitedly announced that it would be extended for another 12 months, ending next April.

The Bennett Institute for Public Policy at the University of Cambridge was drafted in to write a report on the trial and declared it "groundbreaking".

The academics said that their findings showed the pilot could "better address recruitment and retention challenges, improve the physical and mental health of their employees, and respond to a changing society — leading to better outcomes for citizens and the public at large for the long-term."

But this week Lee Rowley, minister for local government, wrote to Smith urging her to call off the trial.

He pointed out that the report declaring the pilot a success showed that the council had failed to meet its targets to re-let housing stock, that its call centre had answered fewer calls and that it had missed its target to collect rent from housing tenants.

Wednesday, 11.45am



Rows of empty desks at South Cambridgeshire district council's office in Cambourne. Staff have a four-day week — and hybrid workers only have to come in once a fortnight

The council said it was considering his letter and Liz Watts, the council's chief executive, wrote to councillors to rebut his points, claiming that some of the targets that were missed were "stretch targets", meaning they did not have to be met. In May it emerged that Watts, who is paid £133,503 a year, had spent three years studying for a PhD on the subject of the four-day week.

This week the Taxpayers' Alliance campaign group obtained correspondence between the Bennett Institute and the council which showed they collaborated on how to present the findings before publication. A Freedom of Information request quoted a council worker saying: "At first glance, there may be a bit too much detail (given that the report is going to be published and there will be a lot of people who are keen to rip the 4DW [four-day week] apart). Is it OK if I track proposed changes and send them over to you and you say whether you're OK with them?"

Five minutes later, a Cambridge researcher replied: "Yes sure — just use 'track changes' and then we'll work towards a version that works for you!"

A spokeswoman for the Bennett Institute told The Times: "There was a normal process of minor edits … common to all publishing. These were important to ensure the integrity of the research. The first was to ensure the anonymity of individual members of the focus group, an important ethical responsibility; the second was to make two paragraphs more comprehensible."

A survey of council staff found 111 out of 499 employees said the four-day week was making them feel "very stressed" or "a little stressed". Furthermore, 89 out of 497 staff said they felt they did not have enough time to do their role under the new arrangement.

Daniel Lentell, a former Liberal Democrat councillor, resigned the whip partly in protest at the four-day week and now sits as an independent.

He said: "You can imagine that this experiment will give Liz Watts incredible data for her thesis, but the locals are the ones who are bearing the brunt."

This month the four-day week will be extended from office-based staff to its refuse workers. As a result, decomposing food waste will not be collected for "the best part of a month" in parts of south Cambridgeshire.

The council's forecasts say the changes will cost £132,000 in year one and £207,000 in year two, covering new vehicles and staff. A spokesman for South Cambridgeshire council said the costs would be shared with Cambridge city council. He added that while "it is harder than ever to recruit and retain staff" its latest surveys showed an improvement in workers' wellbeing.



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V&A chief's treasure hunts

All museum directors are looking anxiously at eBay after the British Museum thefts to see whether any of their collections appear, but Sir Nicholas Coleridge recommends the online retailer as a place to find cheap antiquities. The chairman of the V&A tells the *Break Out Culture* podcast that he would buy Roman coins on eBay — "100 for £9" — and bury them in the garden for his children to find with a metal detector. This worked well until William Sieghart, chairman of Somerset House, brought over his children who at the tenth discovery of a Claudian denarius got excited. "We must ring the newspapers!" they said. Coleridge, above, had to quickly admit the truth before his lawn was dug up by Tony Robinson.



Of all the fake blue plaques sent in, one of my favourites was spotted by Miranda Corben in Barnes, southwest London. It declared that Casanova, the great 18th century lover, "may have breakfasted on this site in 1764".

PRESSURE COOKER PRISONS

The government was mocked this week for declaring, with accuracy if not quite the intended reassurance, that not all schools are built out of feta cheese (I paraphrase). It is also true that not all prisoners are on the lam. In fact, it's much better than in the mid-1960s when 1,028 prisoners escaped in just two years. Roy Jenkins, then the home secretary, blamed overcrowding and promised that the government was trying to reduce it. Leaving the doors open seems a drastic solution.

DECODING TED HEATH

BBC Four is repeating three of Michael Cockerell's political films from the 1990s this month, starting on Monday with *A Very Singular Man*, about Ted Heath. Cockerell tells me that before he interviewed the former prime minister, Heath asked if he'd brought "your usual list of boring questions". At the end, Heath's verdict was that they were indeed just as boring "and infinitely irrelevant". Heath's special adviser reassured the film-maker. "If he's rude, it means he likes you," he said.

To recent items on guests exploiting their host's expense account for takeaway pleasures, Suzie Marwood adds one about Laurie Lee, who unsteadily left the Savoy after a good literary lunch and then remembered that he hadn't finished his glass of chartreuse. Returning to the table, the author produced an envelope, filled it with the sticky green liqueur and put it in his pocket for later.

A STING IN THE TALE

France is suffering an invasion of bedbugs this year with more than a tenth of households infected. The rest aren't up to scratch. This prompted Lord Lisvane to email about his grandfather, who took a first-class sleeper from Marseilles to Paris and found his compartment full of the critters. He wrote a scorcher of a letter to the chairman of the Compagnie des Wagons-Lits and received a grovelling reply, expressing mortification. The train director had been sacked, it said, and the carriage burnt. Nothing like this had happened before or would again, he promised. The effect was only slightly spoilt by the original letter being attached. Upon it was scrawled "Send him the bug letter".

PATRICK KIDD

Onward and upward for disabled dog Hope

Kieran Gair

At three months old, Hope, a cross-breed dog, was abused and abandoned. Paralysed by a crushed vertebra and dislocated hip, she has needed a wheelchair to move around since then.

Today Hope will attempt to become the first dog that uses one to summit Snowdon.

"The bigger the hill, the more she thinks, 'Right, that's a challenge' and she just marches on ahead of me," said Kerry Rushton, who adopted Hope in December 2020. "She's put on 3kg in muscle in the last couple of years," Rushton added. "Her front end is incredibly strong."

Videos show Hope clambering over rocky outcrops and racing across muddy fields, the wheels on her chair whirring away behind her.

Rushton's social media provides a glimpse into how far Hope has come since she was rescued.

Videos include her in hydrotherapy sessions and gleefully chasing Rushton's other dogs. Hope is proof, Rushton told the BBC, that disabled dogs can lead a normal life. "There are so many dogs out there that people just give up on," she said.

The pair will start their climb of Snowdon at 5am today in the hope of escaping the worst of the heat. If all goes to plan, they will have reached the summit before midday.

Rushton, from Okehampton, Devon, is raising funds for the charity that helped save Hope, the Glasgow-based Amanda's Scottish Rescue Dogs. She has already raised £1,500, more than double her original target. "We were admiring how well she does [at climbing] and thought, 'Let's try and use this and see if we can raise some money for the rescue that rescued her'."



After abuse and neglect as a puppy, today Hope will try to climb Snowdon

While Rushton admitted that it can be difficult to care for a disabled dog, she said she would not have had it any other way. "I don't think anyone thinks, 'I'd love all that extra work'," she said. "But I was in a position that I could help her and thought, 'Nobody else will'."

Abandoned without assistance, Hope was forced to drag herself along gravel as a puppy. As a result she suffered repeated infections and was close to becoming immune to antibiotics. "It was stressful, it was worrying and it was hard work," Rushton said of the early months of Hope's recovery.



†Early Saver price of £1,099 per person is based on two adults sharing the lowest grade of Inside cabin available on Britannia cruise B506 and is inclusive of economy class flight from London and transfer. Prices may vary for other departure airports, are subject to availability and may go up or down. All flights are subject to availability. For up-to-date prices and full T&Cs applicable to Early Saver prices, please visit www.pocruises.com. ‡Pay Monthly option is available on direct bookings only. For full T&Cs, please visit www.pocruises.com/why-choose-us/pay-monthly.

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News

Splashing the cash? Try a hallway bath

From the outside, a flat on sale for almost half a million pounds in one of London's trendiest areas looks worth its pricetag (Charlie Parker writes).

Only one problem has been putting off prospective buyers: the bathtub installed in its hallway.

Viewers said the "cramped" £475,000 home in Kentish Town summed up the struggle to get on the property ladder as prices continue to rise in the capital.

Even the boss of the estate agents selling the flat admitted he was shocked to find the exposed tub feet from the front door.

Online photos of the property show a bedroom, shower room, kitchen, dining room and deck.

On closer inspection, however, house hunters discovered the bath tucked into a white tiled area in the hallway.

The flat was listed on Rightmove by Burghleys Estate Agents and is being advertised as a "unique" one-bedroom garden



Puzzle test for signs of dementia in NHS patients

Rhys Blakely Science Correspondent

A pioneering trial will monitor NHS patients for early signs of dementia by tracking how well they solve puzzles on their mobile phones.

The aim is to monitor brain health in adults older than 40 by testing their mental agility every six months using games on an app. If a person's performance declines more rapidly than would be expected through ageing alone, a GP will be alerted.

Family doctors can make their own assessments and could refer patients to "memory clinics" that specialise in supporting patients who have shown signs of problems. Patients could be advised to make lifestyle changes, which studies suggest can cut the risk of dementia by as much as a third. These would include taking more exercise, achieving a healthy weight and being socially active.

Patients could also play more "brain training" games, which research has shown can boost problem-solving, short-term memory and the ability to manage day-to-day activities.

Professor Anne Corbett, of Exeter University, who is leading the £1.9 million Reactive study, said doctors did not see "99 per cent of people" with early signs of memory problems.

"Yet these are the people who will benefit the most from early assessment, diagnosis, and treatment," she said. "Computerised tests of brain health are more sensitive and accurate than traditional paper-and-pencil tests and using an app means we can reach large numbers of people in an affordable way."

Corbett told the British Science Festival in Exeter: "Prevention is better than cure. That really is the goal … [to] have a precision-targeted approach so we can reduce their individual risk of progressing any further. That's why we're targeting people who are in the very early stages. We know that the earlier you intervene, the more chance you have of slowing and reducing the risk of converting to dementia later on. There is good evidence now that we can reduce the risk very effectively."

The app will include eight types of puzzles to assess short-term and long-term memory, reaction times, attention levels and reasoning skills. It is designed to detect what is known as "mild cognitive impairment" (MCI), in which people experience modest problems.

Alzheimer's Research UK said up to one person in five older than 65 could have MCI. About 1,000 people will initially use the app as part of a three-year trial to start next month. If the results are positive it could be used across the NHS.

Dr Susan Mitchell, head of policy at Alzheimer's Research UK, which is not involved in the study, said: "With two potentially life-changing Alzheimer's treatments on the horizon … there is an increasing need to identify and diagnose people at the earliest stages of disease progression, when these treatments are most likely to be effective."



Dry run Osvaldo Golijov's Ainadamar, or Fountain of Tears, is rehearsed by the

KENNEDY NEWS/BURGHLEYS ESTATE AGENT





Listed for £475,000, the flat was filled with junk when estate agents first entered it. Only once they had cleared up did the bath become visible

flat with shower room and "extra" bath. Ashley Gendler, director of the company, said despite the unusual feature the apartment was still generating plenty of interest.

"There have been remarks about it [the bath] as it's not something you would usually see," he said.

"It was an architecturally designed conversion not by the current owner but by the previous owner who we know nothing about, so we don't know the reasons why he did this."

He explained that when property professionals first had a look around the hallway, the area was filled with junk. "We didn't even know there was a bath there. It had to be pointed out to us so it was even more of a shock to us," he said.

"[In London] there are plenty of flats being sold just with shower rooms. Whoever converted the flat didn't have to put a bath in there."

Flat hunters "are not being resistant to viewing it because there is a bath in the hallway," Gendler added.

Over-70s who still make time for multiple partners

James Beal Social Affairs Editor

Many gay and bisexual men aged 70 or more continue to have a sex life featuring multiple partners, while the majority of straight women of the same age have had no recent sexual partners, a study has found.

Researchers from the University of East Anglia looked into how the number of sexual partners people have changes as they age. They found 79 per cent of heterosexual women aged 70-plus had had no partners in the previous three weeks. In contrast, 17 per cent of gay men of that age reported more than one sexual partner in the same period.

Dr Julii Brainard, from the university's Norwich Medical School, said: "Before this study, many models about sexually transmitted diseases assumed that everyone over a certain age — say 40 or 65 — stopped being sexually active, or at least stopped having multiple partners. Or there might be an assumption that young people have the most sex. But the answer is more nuanced — and partly depends on sexuality."

The study surveyed more than 5,000 adults. Its sample included almost 3,300 people from the general population and 1,036 men who have sex with men, recruited via Facebook and Instagram. A further 831 people responded to ads on Grindr, the gay dating app.

Participants were asked for their gender, sexual identity and how many partners they had had in the previous three weeks and in the previous three months. The team wanted to better understand how sexual behaviours change with age to make mathematical models of sexually transmitted infections more accurate.

Brainard said: "Modellers shouldn't assume that having multiple partners stops at a strict age threshold."

The study was funded by the National Institute for Health and Care Research and its key findings were included in the journal Plos One.

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ELLIOTT FRANKS



Welsh National Opera in Cardiff

Call for more Covid jabs amid fears of new variant

Kat Lay Health Editor
Poppy Koronka

Ministers are being urged to widen the availability of Covid vaccines after public health officials warned that a new variant was likely to be widespread in Britain.

A group of MPs wrote to the prime minister yesterday warning that the NHS may struggle to cope with another winter of high numbers of Covid cases, urging them to rethink the decision to restrict boosters to the over-65s, The Guardian reported.

The all-party parliamentary group on coronavirus called on Rishi Sunak to consider extending the booster programme to people as young as 50 and to make the jabs available to buy privately.

The new variant, called BA.2.86 and nicknamed "pirola", has been identified 34 times nationally, of which five cases needed hospital treatment. Twenty-eight of the cases were at a Norfolk care home, the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) said in a briefing as it urged people to come forward for vaccinations when called.

The nature of care homes, whose residents often have underlying health problems and are cared for and socialise together, make them particularly vulnerable to virus outbreaks.

The UKHSA is still working to ascertain whether pirola causes higher rates of hospital admissions and death than earlier forms of Covid-19. Dr Renu Bindra, incident director at the agency, said: "While BA.2.86 has a significant number of mutations to the viral genome compared to other currently circulating Covid variants, the data so far is too limited to draw firm conclusions about the impact this will have on the transmissibility, severity or immune escape properties of the virus."

She admitted that it was "likely to be some time before we have enough data to make a confident assessment".

Last week the Department of Health announced that the autumn Covid and flu vaccination programmes would be brought forward to September 11. Care home residents will be among the first to receive jabs, and GPs and pharmacists have been offered bonuses for swift vaccinations, including a £200 bonus per care home vaccinated by October 22.

News

Villagers turn detective in unsolved burglary hotspot that police forgot

Shop and café owners have taken matters into their own hands (and WhatsApp groups), writes **Will Humphries**



JULIAN BENJAMIN FOR THE TIMES



Hilary Brand, owner of the Lyndhurst Tea House and a councillor, says villagers would welcome a return of the physical presence of police. "You only see them when they go into Costa for a coffee," says a shopkeeper

News travels fast in the New Forest. As I leave the Lyndhurst Antiques Centre my presence in the village is broadcast to other shop owners on a WhatsApp group. As I arrive at The Lyndhurst Tea House the owner already knows why I am here, to ask about them filling the gap left by an absent police force in tackling low-level crimes.

The village, rather surprisingly, is the neighbourhood with the highest number of unsolved burglaries in the country — 84. Not a single burglary has been solved in the rural Lyndhurst and Minstead area for three years.

Years ago shop owners there used walkie-talkies to alert each other to problems, not unlike the fictional village of Sandford depicted in the rural police comedy *Hot Fuzz*.

Now they instantly share crime alerts, emergency calls for assistance and images of suspects captured on CCTV through a WhatsApp messaging group. They have largely given up trying to get the police involved.

Recently, they have created an additional "SOS group" where a lone shop worker can post a WhatsApp message requesting immediate help and those from nearby businesses will rush to their aid.

Sophie Draper, 50, who has run a womenswear shop in the village for 17 years, said: "We don't have a police presence any more. We used to have a lovely police officer, Andy, and Lisa, a PCSO. They would walk up and down and pop in but that was probably back in 2016. Lisa is a dog walker now. She left because of the cuts. I think we have a PCSO but I have never met him. The only time you see police now is when they park on the double yellows and pop into Costa for a coffee."

Locals repeatedly told The Times they regularly see police cars driving down the high street but they rarely see any officers on foot in the village. The Hampshire police force has at least 300 fewer officers than in 2010, having had to save £80 million in "efficiency" since that year. In 2020 it had about 1,000 fewer officers than in 2010, but it has been on a recruitment drive since then.

Draper said she had had success in using social media to solve crimes. Her CCTV cameras caught a woman shoplifting in her store several years ago. She posted a CCTV image of the woman on Facebook and a family member recognised her and told her husband. "He came in and paid for the item and apologised, saying he had realised she had mental health issues," Draper said.

More recently, in February this year, a man and woman stole two Moorcroft pottery charger plates from Lyndhurst Antiques Centre, with the man caught on CCTV slipping the plates into the woman's bag.

The shop owner told the high street's WhatsApp group about the theft and she was encouraged to post the images on Facebook to solve the crime.

Draper said: "We told her to post about it and the woman went back in [with the stolen plates] two days later. She said she didn't know the guy she had been with and had been on a date, and had been drugged and woke up with the plates. We are not the crime capital of southern England but because we have had no police presence we are protecting ourselves before anything happens. It's just prevention, we are protecting our staff."

Stephen Ferder, 68, only allows two people in his antiques shop at a time after several shoplifting attempts in the past year. "The sign went up during Covid but then we took it down," he said. "But when I realised people were trying to take advantage [and shoplift] I got the sign back up."

Hilary Brand, 49, owner of The Lyndhurst Tea House and the Liberal Democrat district councillor for the area, said the village had a "really good" police community support officer who had given his mobile phone number out to people, but admitted: "We don't see the police."

She added: "I think people would like to see a return of the physical presence — I guess it would deter people from the more opportunistic stuff like taking a bike or shoplifting, potentially."

Brand said the main complaint from locals was traffic and not crime, and from the monthly crime report she gets sent it appears most burglaries are "outhouse crimes" in sheds, barns and outbuildings.

Analysis of police data from 30,100 neighbourhoods has found that in 48.2 per cent, no break-ins had been solved in the three years ending this March. A neighbourhood is defined as having about 1,500 people or 650 households. Those with the highest number of unsolved burglaries were Lyndhurst and Minstead (84), Balby Carr in Doncaster (83), Greenwich town and park, London (82), Woodgate Valley, Birmingham (79) and Kensington in Liverpool (78).

The data included the period since the 43 chief constables in England and Wales signed a commitment last October that police would visit the scene of every burglary. However, most forces exclude outbuildings, sheds and garages.

Donna Jones, the Conservative police and crime commissioner for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, has admitted that in the past few years "the public have felt there has been a decline in police visibility and officers responding to crimes." She said recent changes to Hampshire's policing model were designed to "bring police closer to communities" and there would be more neighbourhood enforcement teams in communities who could act quickly on intelligence.

Chief Inspector Nick Marsden, the New Forest district commander, has said there has been a steady decline in theft offences after the force vowed to visit every burglary and chase up investigative opportunities. He said police needed "the support of the public and for them to continue to report suspicious incidents or crimes to us. Only then can we take action and bring those responsible to justice."

Head linked to 'conspiracy school' quits

Tom Ball, Dominic Kennedy

A headteacher has resigned after it emerged he had supported an "illegal school" run by conspiracy theorists.

In January The Times reported that Mike Fairclough had given a talk at Hope Sussex, which was founded by two former members of the British National Party. Ofsted, the inspectorate, suspects it of being an illegal school.

Fairclough, 49, sends his own children to classes at Hope Sussex and his wife is also involved in the project.

On Thursday, he announced his resignation from West Rise Junior School, in Eastbourne, East Sussex, saying that he intended to take the council, his employer, to an employment tribunal.

Since November of last year parents at the state primary, where Fairclough was headteacher for 19 years, had been told that the head was signed off sick.

It is understood that his leave of absence was precipitated by an investigation commissioned by East Sussex county council, following a complaint in November 2022 from parents about his opposition to Covid vaccinations and his association with Hope Sussex.

Fairclough was cleared of breaching headteacher standards, but declined to return to work, saying the council's refusal to rule out further investigations was "damaging to his health".

While on sick leave, Fairclough continued to visit Hope Sussex and attended multiple events connected with it.

Hope Sussex says it is not a school but "a community centre that hires its facilities to allow home-educating families to supplement their children's education with wholesome and critically thinking tutors".

Fairclough did not respond to a request for comment. In his resignation announcement, published on Facebook, he said: "I feel that I have been discriminated against, harassed and bullied for exercising my right to lawful free speech."

One parent, who asked not to be named, told The Times: "He has let that school down and been so distracted by all of his Covid and anti-establishment rantings … that he hasn't done his job."

An East Sussex county council spokeswoman said: "We are aware that Mr Fairclough has made a claim to the Employment Tribunals."

Boy, 10, dies after electric shock at Blackpool hotel

Tom Ball Northern Correspondent

A ten-year-old boy has died having been electrocuted in the lounge area of a seaside hotel in Blackpool.

Police said they were called to Tiffany's Hotel shortly after 10.30pm last Sunday when a boy, who has not been named, was found unresponsive. He was taken to Alder Hey Children's Hospital with injuries "consistent with coming into contact with a high voltage of electricity" but died on Thursday.

One guest who visited in July said the hotel, located on the promenade, appeared to be undergoing repair work, with cables and wires poking out of walls in public areas. "It was an accident waiting to happen," they said.

The hotel was criticised three years ago by guests who claimed part of the ceiling had fallen through into their bedroom, while last month a reviewer on TripAdvisor claimed the ceiling had collapsed in the entertainment area and said water had been dripping from the ceiling in the restaurant.

A spokesman for Tiffany's said: "We are deeply saddened by this recent incident." They added that the hotel had closed temporarily.

Lancashire police said the matter had been passed to the local authority and a file is being prepared for the coroner.

Drop NHS deference and shout the wards down
Janice Turner
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Comment

Pay as you drive is the future of motoring

We have the technology to introduce a fairer and greener system for charging road users, so what are we waiting for?

Matthew Parris



'She was one of those persons," wrote Thornton Wilder of an 18th-century abbess in *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*, "who have allowed their lives to be gnawed away because they have fallen in love with an idea several centuries before its appointed appearance in the history of civilisation. She hurled herself against the obstinacy of her time . . ." The abbess's idea was for "a little dignity to be attached to women".

Your columnist's unrequited enthusiasm has been for a less exalted idea. It's the better part of half a century since, for the Daily Telegraph and as a member of the transport select committee, I wrote a column headlined "Roads that take their toll". Discussing problems caused by London's heavy traffic, I ran through the options for better managing the use of roads. I mentioned tolls, whose disadvantage is the delay and nuisance. "But need it be so in the future?" I asked. Could we (I argued) develop the technology to monitor remotely the use of roads, "and charge [the motorist] monthly for his driving, as we charge a telephone subscriber for his telephone calls?"

In the decades that have followed, a debate about these ideas has flickered and flared. Meanwhile the technology for implementing them has advanced in leaps and bounds. In the huge row over polluting cars in outer London we could be looking at a less clunky, usage-related proposal to swiftly succeed the Ulez (ultra-low emission zone). This is an idea whose time has come, and I predict with confidence that in the next half century developed countries will be moving towards electronic road pricing (ERP), first with localised schemes but finally for all public highways. Already, primitive forerunners are in operation in (for instance) Singapore, Stockholm and a number of Asian cities; and on many of the world's motorways and car parks it is possible to buy automatic access and egress using number plate-recognition technology. Fully fledged and comprehensive ERP systems are now well within our reach. Many new cars are (did you realise?) already being electronically tracked by their manufacturers.

There are almost as many variations of road-pricing proposals as there are proponents of the concept. Here's mine, but be clear the application of the general idea is elastic. Vehicles — not drivers — would be tracked. The data gathered would include the routes driven and the time they were driven. The type, make, weight and age of the vehicle will already be known by the DVLA. The registered keeper would be charged for journeys, just as the registered owner of a phone is charged for its calls regardless of who makes them.

> Charges would depend on whether a road was used at rush hour

At a stroke we could then charge more (or less) for more (or less) polluting vehicles, giving EVs (electric vehicles) a competitive advantage. Charges would depend on whether a road was used at rush hours, what type of road was chosen and whether or not congested zones were avoided. We'd have a powerful and precise tool for regulating traffic, nudging by price (as we do with rail fares) so that, for instance, drivers for whom time of day was not critical would shift to off-peak periods, and drivers for whom speed was less important would shift from over-used to under-used routes. Thus we could iron out the peaks and troughs of demand, increasing the overall capacity of our road network. We'd also increase driver satisfaction and vehicle efficiency by reducing congestion.

It's important, though, to repeat that ERP is a tool. How it's used would depend on political (and democratic) will. It could be pro-motorist (used to finance big new motorway, tunnel and bridge projects) or anti-motorist (used to chill demand for motoring and nudge people on to trains). The means to employ this too are already within our reach and require no roadside infrastructure. Satellite technology can do it (Alistair Darling proposed such a system as transport secretary nearly 20 years ago) and can track either a vehicle or a phone. Order an Uber and on your smartphone screen you'll see a primitive version of the technology already in operation as, cursing, you track your car's progress.

Politically the switch would be very tricky ("poll-tax on wheels" etc) and motorist resistance should not be underestimated — it killed Darling's proposal. Reports suggest experience worldwide is that use-related systems are always met by huge public resistance but, once in place and operating smoothly, the public approve. To win voters over, the switch could be accompanied by the reduction and finally abolition of fuel duties and of vehicle excise duty.



Smart tracking technology would remove any need for toll booths

Collateral benefits would include a reduction in car tax fraud because owners would pay nothing to register a vehicle, so our log of vehicle ownership would gain in accuracy — helpful to the police. The regime would also be fairer on those (particularly the elderly) who own a car but don't drive far. There would be some shift in the burden of taxation from domestic to commercial users.

Pay-as-you-use, of course, already operates crudely through fuel duties, but without the means to regulate the type or time of use and so fine-tune road use. But quite apart from the incentive to increase the productivity of this major part of our national infrastructure, there's a sharper and more urgent incentive. Revenue from fuel duty is beginning to dwindle, and will dwindle finally to almost zero as the transition to EVs takes place. This is "rapidly eroding" the £39 billion the government receives in tax revenues from petrol and diesel vehicles, according to the Office for Budget Responsibility. "The increased take-up of EVs is expected to cost £13 billion a year in lost fuel duty by 2030," the OBR adds. Of course a chancellor has the option to put up fuel duties and to kick carbon-fuel motorists (a majority) in the stomach while continuing to exempt EV drivers (a minority) such as me. Politically, this is unlikely to appeal.

> Revenue from fuel duty will dwindle to almost zero

A royal commission on road pricing is coming over the horizon. Like another inevitability, the introduction of the digital equivalent of a national identity card, it won't be easy. But nor was the introduction, successfully accomplished, of universal credit. Ministers do sometimes grit their teeth and do the right thing. And whoever wins next year's general election will be facing many years in which there's no money, and a need for big ideas that don't cost too much.

So instead of fiddling around the edges, let's take this one head on. Or am I, like Wilder's abbess, doomed still to hurl myself against the obstinacy of my time?

RED BOX
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Ann Treneman Notebook

Sight of a turbine is like a breath of fresh air

I am a big believer in the power of a good view. You know how, when you buy a house or flat, you make lists entitled "must have", "be nice to have" and "don't care". My "must have" list includes having a view. The older I get, the more important it is to have something pleasurable to look at that is (relatively) far away.

I used to be conservative about what should be in the view. Basically, I was after a scene that was "timeless": countryside, sea, mountains as they had always been. How vexing it was to find, on one of my frequent visits to Margate, that the skies and seas that had so inspired Turner now also featured an offshore wind farm. (Never mind that the sea near there has long been home to the otherworldly Maunsell forts.)



Huff and puff as I might, the wind farm stayed and gradually, over the years, I began to see that Bob Dylan was right all along. The answer really is blowing in the wind. I now see the ghostly slender turbines as a quintessential part of the view, not as intruders. On our annual holiday in Romney Marsh on the Kent coast I seek out places with a view that includes the marsh's turbines, turning, turning, accompanied by a stately row of huge electricity pylons.

I would like to invite Tory energy rebels, including my former sketchwriting subject, Sir Jacob Rees-Mogg, to come and train their pince-nez on this view, which is both beautiful and useful. Onshore wind is the future.

Yes, I hear you ask, but would you want a view of a wind turbine from your back garden in Bakewell? Why not? The Peak District is littered with industrial views of one kind or another: Bring it on.

Blown away

I was driving through the green and pleasant hills near Bakewell to the village of Youlgreave last week when, in the sky, a hot air balloon floated into view. Moments later, another one appeared to my right. Then two more appeared on my left. A new one on the right seemed a very strange shape, long and thin, and I wondered how this could be.

I almost crashed as I pondered the mystery of the thin hot air balloon. Other (smarter) drivers had stopped and stood by their cars, staring up and photographing the scene. It did feel as if we had all become part of a surrealist film. So what is the collective noun for hot air balloons? Apparently, it is a "congress". Surely we can do better than that.

Digging for bulbs

I hate to sound like a High Court judge but what is going on with lightbulbs? Ian was always the lightbulb-changer in our house and so, really, I have been out of the lightbulb loop for more than 15 years. Now that he has been gone for seven months, various bulbs around the house have gone to the dark side. Thus I have been forced to enter a world that is (if brightly lit) wildly out of control in terms of labelling/types/sizes, etc.

I always thought bras had an overly complicated sizing system but they are nothing compared with bulb-land.

Gnome sweet gnome

It is reported that burglars are placing Christmas gnomes in front gardens as a way of finding out if homes are empty (the gnome stays) or occupied (the gnome goes). This tactic is totally misguided. Do the burglars not realise we are living in an age of "gnome-core" when all things gnome are to be embraced? After all, there's gnome place like home. Sorry, couldn't resist.

@ANNTRENEMAN

Welcome to Britain, get your wristband ready

The €5-a-day entry charge Venice is to levy on tourists is the right idea, but here we could take it so much further

Giles Coren



In an attempt to curb the overcrowding and cultural decline that have made it the most neurotic city in the world, Venice has announced that tourists will be charged an entry fee at busy times of €5 a day from 2024.

Weirdly, the very citizens who have been complaining about the ravages of tourism since at least the end of the Ottoman wars are not in favour. Largely on the basis that they do not want their home turned into "Disneyland".

"Making visitors pay to get in turns Venice into a museum or theme park rather than a city where people live," said Mickey-Mouse-in-Chief, sorry, Venice residents' activist group president Matteo Secchi. "When visitors have a ticket in their hand, will they think us residents are tour guides and feel they have the right to ask us directions?"

Leaving aside the grim picture of a populace so unfriendly it resents giving directions to strangers, why on earth wouldn't you want your city to be a theme park? Theme parks are great: always clean and safe, with no dog poo, poverty or homelessness. It's the dream. Real-world tourism has got to a point now where we are only actively spoiling whatever we've come to see, anyway. Whether it is Rome, New York, the Lake District, African savannah or coastal Thailand, the things people used to come for aren't there any more.

If I were Venetian, I would welcome this project and charge much higher prices to keep the riff-raff out. In the meantime, let's do it in London. In fact, let's do it with the whole of Britain. Think of what we could do with the entrance money at this difficult time. Sure, we locals may be treated as tour guides. But I'm cool with that. I've got my shtick right down already…

Welcome to Britain, that'll be a thousand pounds, please. Thank you. Have an annoying wristband. With this you will gain access to the millions of acres of "green concrete" we used to call "the countryside", before all the hedgerows were torn out in the 1960s and then mono agricultural rotations, DDT and Roundup conspired to create biodiversity levels on a par with downtown Manhattan.

Included in the admission price is a chance to bask in this unheard-of (but definitely to be heard of again) September heatwave, with the added bonus of angry posters on public

> If I were Venetian, I'd charge higher prices to keep the riff-raff out

transport barking at you to wear a hat and sunscreen and carry water and sit down from time to time and not wear a jumper or deliberately put your head in any ovens, but instead to try and walk in the shade, in case you hadn't thought of that, and generally to try and stay cool. Except don't jump in any bodies of inland water such as reservoirs, lakes or rivers, because of possible drowning, neck injuries and Lyme disease.



Who doesn't want to live in a theme park, with no poverty or dog poo?

You're allowed to swim in the sea, but do you want to? Tickets to public beaches will be on sale for £100 a pop with free swimming included, but you'll have to part the brown scum, nappies and wet wipes from the latest raw sewage release before you slide in, although at least the dense faecal whiff it gives your body will stop the murderous giant seagulls who infest our coastline from nicking your chips. Or your eyes.

To enter London, we already have a ticketing system. It's £15 per car per day at the moment unless you have an electric car, except if you have an electric car there's nowhere to charge it. So we've got you either way. The good thing about the no-car policy is that it has led to an explosion of unlicensed electric bicycles and illegal scooters who mostly use pavements and one-way streets the wrong way, so chances are you'll be knocked down and killed before you've gone anywhere. But don't worry, an ambulance won't come. And if it does, the hospital it takes you to will be falling down and there won't be any doctors in it.

But there's plenty to see if you survive the roads. Such as the House of Commons, which sits all year round except when anything important is happening, although it is structurally rotten, rat-infested and dangerous, like every other public building in Britain, which is why surveyors have called for a £22 billion refurbishment, despite there being no money to make our schools safe.

For hundreds more pounds, you can get tickets to our reinforced aerated concrete theatres, which will then either fall down on top of you or be closed before you get to see the show in the first place, like the Royal & Derngate in Northampton, whose concrete-related closure has led to performances by Tim Vine, Miriam Margolyes and Gyles Brandreth being cancelled, which is very sad indeed — although it does finally answer the question, "what does it take to shut up Miriam Margolyes?" (On a personal note, I'd like to say that I like Miriam Margolyes, I just thought it was a funny joke. I could have said the same thing about Gyles Brandreth, but I see him from time to time at Oldie lunches and it might be awkward, and unfortunately I have no idea who Tim Vine is.)

Or what about the British Museum? Used to be free, but we're now offering £100 tickets to watch various ex-politicians, academics and general woke nutters opening their veins over thousand-year-old equality grumbles, which is frankly all you are going to be able to see, as all the actual exhibits have been nicked over the years by cheesed-off employees, except for the Elgin Marbles (because they were literally nailed to the wall) which they're about to give back anyway. A cheaper option is to visit a prison — in Britain we let inmates and visitors come and go as they please, with an efficient all-day lorry system operating at HMP Wandsworth.

London restaurants now either cost a thousand quid a head or have closed for good, but despite that, Britain has the highest obesity rate in Europe apart from (ironically) Hungary, with a whopping 28 per cent of UK citizens so fat they ought really to see a doctor, if there were any. So crack out the wide-angle lens and see if you can bag a whopper.

That done, repair to a city park to see the comatose, dribbling teenagers lying half-dead amid piles of nitrous oxide capsules — did you miss the famous UK glue epidemic of the 1980s? Now is your chance to get a flavour of that glittering bygone age.

Or better still, pay £760 million to visit Birmingham, Britain's first bankrupt city. That's how much it owes in equal pay claims to female staff alone. But it has more miles of canal than Venice, I remember reading in the *Every Boy's Handbook* of 1978, so I'm sure will be worth every penny. And when you get a quiet moment, why not send a postcard home? It's two quid a stamp now, but we'll do you a book of ten for £100.

Bon voyage!

Jonathan Tulloch Nature Notebook

This family of songbirds light up the evening sky

The evening shadows were gathering as the 381 bus bounced us into Rotherhithe. We were going to visit our son: little did I know that we were also about to enjoy an impromptu nature safari.

Alighting at Russia Dock Road, I was amazed to hear a familiar sound in the sky. Looking up, I saw half a dozen house martins playing above the buildings in the fading rays of the late summer sun. Despite the rumble of buses, and someone on the other side of the street singing a booming, falsetto version of a Beyoncé song, the birds' excited twittering was as pastoral as anything you would hear in a high-hedged meadow. This was a family group, with the adults teaching their young how to fly. They weren't just passing through: they must be nesting nearby. House martins breeding in London!

Another treat was in store. Walking down a lane we found our way blocked by a fox. When we took a step closer, the red-gold animal did so too. This was repeated a number of times until we were close enough to see the vixen's amber eyes.

Perhaps people in the southeast of England are used to such encounters, but in the green acres of our North Yorkshire countryside, foxes are rare. Gamekeeper guns, poison and snares and the still-extant hunt ensure that I see only one or two a year. And those that I do encounter are super shy.

Yet here was a fox so bold that it might be auditioning for a role in *The Gingerbread Man*. Ears pricked forward, it stared at us quizzically for a few more moments, then, in a feint of stunning grace, ghosted past us and leapt over a wall.



Batty over you

Yet more intimate encounters with wild London were waiting. Our son and his housemates are blessed with a small garden and we were sitting outside watching the trees of the nearby Stave Hill Ecological Park melt into shadow, when something fluttered over the branches. It was gone in a second, but reappeared a few moments later. A common pipistrelle bat! With a wingspan of over 20cm but weighing no more than a pound coin, the bat fluttered like a large black hand as it hunted: pipistrelles can consume 3,000 flies in one night. But tonight wasn't just about feeding. After a few flyovers, the lone bat was joined by a companion. Slightly smaller, this was a male, and he was shadowing her. Keeping close, he fluttered and flapped around her with showy wingbeats and constant, jerky dives. Time and time again, they skittered over the garden. We were witnessing one of the great sights of late summer and early autumn — the nuptial flight of the pipistrelle bat. If we had exceptional hearing, we might too have been able to hear the male singing.

The females will breed with the strongest fliers but won't give birth until June. Through the coming hibernation, they will hold the male's sperm, only letting it fertilise their eggs in spring. This delayed implantation allows birth to occur at optimal times.



Left, a house martin; above, a common sandpiper takes supper in a salt marsh

Return to the marsh

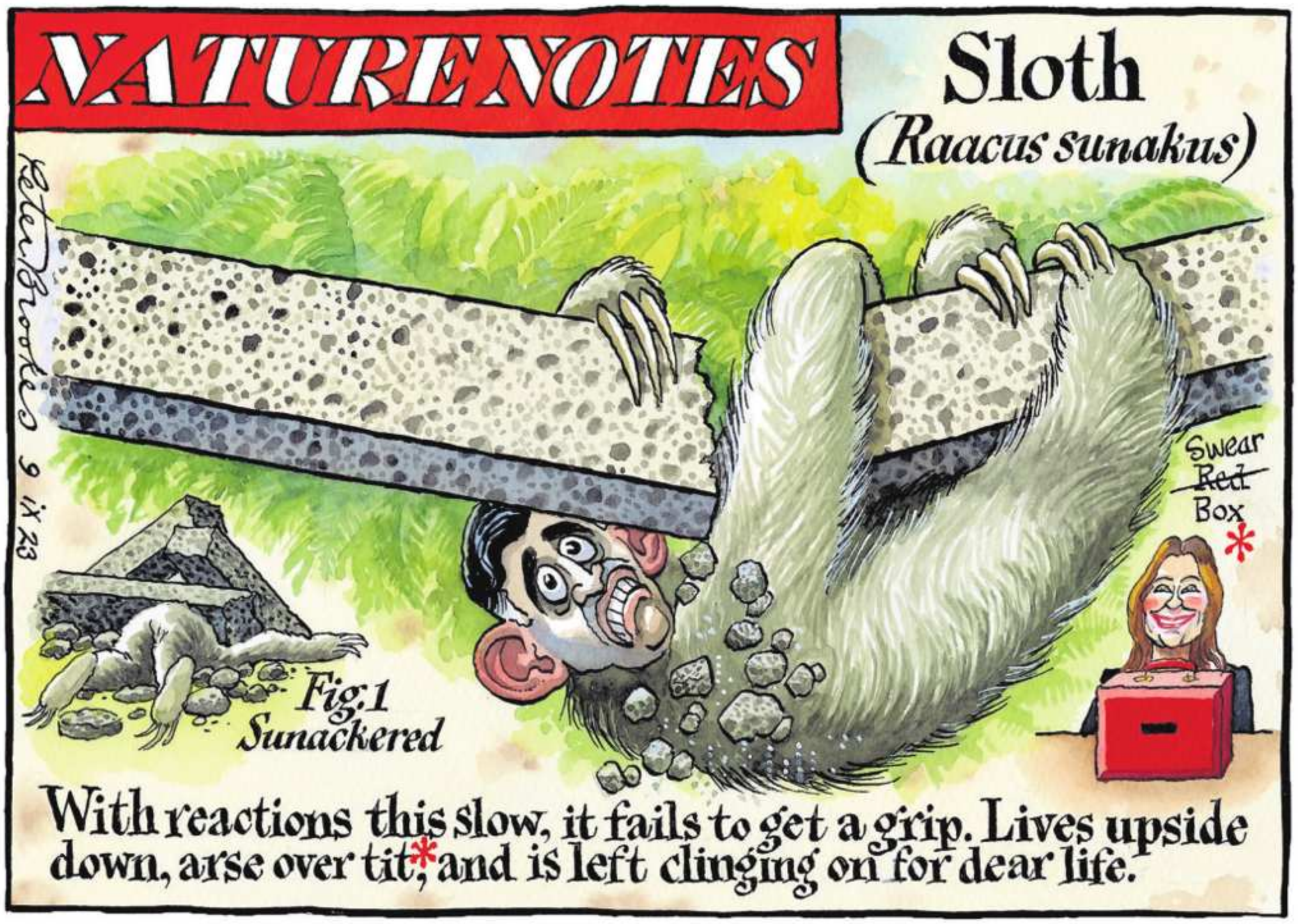
I'm no Londoner (in fact, I'm a bit of a professional northerner) but I admit that the local nature reserves and the proximity of the river make this part of the capital special. Waiting by Greenland Dock, across the Thames from the Isle of Dogs, for the boat back to our hotel, I stared at the unappetising chop of soupy water. Just a few years ago, the Thames was improving as a habitat, but tonight's sewer-stink hinted at recent backward steps. The sheer force of water, though, was a reminder that only a few centuries ago the Thames was a far, far wider, shallow waterway meandering through salt marshes. In those days, Rotherhithe had been one of the few places where a boat could harbour, and its name means the place where cattle can be landed.

It was here, standing in a boat, that Richard II addressed the population during the Peasants' Revolt of 1381, promising freedom to the serfs, only to go back on his word.

And it was here, as the super blue moon of August 31, 2023, rose above Canary Wharf, that we saw a common sandpiper roosting on the jetty. Nowadays this summer migrant breeds mainly by fast-flowing becks, and close to lochs and loud upland waters, but once it would have been a London marshland special. This particular bird was resting on its arduous journey to Africa. Will my son and his friends live long enough to see sandpipers become common birds of the Thames again?

Jonathan Tulloch's children's novel Cuckoo Summer was nominated for the 2023 Carnegie Medal

@JONATHANTULLOCH



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Drop NHS deference and shout the wards down

Shocking death of 13-year-old Martha Mills is a wake-up call to all of us who bite our tongues before god-like doctors

Janice Turner



@VICTORIAPECKHAM

Like any parent who heard Merope Mills talk about the negligent doctors who caused her daughter Martha's death, I've wondered what I'd have done in her place. If my 13-year-old was feverish, and blood seeping from stomach tubes was soaking her sheets, would I grab that imperious consultant who refused to diagnose sepsis by his lapels? Or shout at the junior doctor left in charge, who didn't think overnight checks on the ward's sickest patient was part of her job?

Probably, like Mills, I'd be reassured my child was on a specialist unit in a major teaching hospital. (My own sons were born at King's College Hospital, where she died.) I'd say please and "we're very grateful" and, as with Mills and her husband Paul Laity, doctors would record "Mum and Dad pleasant and helpful". When, inevitably, I googled symptoms, I'd offer my findings with a deferential "sorry".

All Mills now proposes with "Martha's Rule" is the right to a second opinion. Such a simple thing: another pair of eyes on a problem that has turned out more intractable than expected. But to demand this as a patient is close to heresy. You are questioning the doctor deities and angel nurses we clapped for and sought to protect. You're a doubter in our national religion, "our NHS".

Mills, a Guardian journalist, began Martha's tragic journey a true believer (she still supports the NHS's noble principles and praises its many skilled, tireless staff). But within weeks she moved from siding instinctively with doctors when an angry A&E patient screamed "f***ing murderers" to advising others: "If things seem to be going wrong, shout the ward down."

Complaining in hospital poses a particular problem for middle-class liberals: any error or shortfall must be due to Tory cuts. And NHS staff are indeed overstretched, resources pared to the bone, but in Martha's case there was a paediatric ICU bed free right next door. She died because of interdepartmental politics, arrogant consultants, a skeleton bank holiday roster, a system where no one bore ultimate responsibility for keeping her alive — and, above all, doctors failing to listen to those by her bedside 24/7, observing every infinitesimal change, who knew and loved her best.

> This unquestioning goodwill is deep-rooted but is often our undoing

In a decade of NHS adventures with elderly parents, I too bit my tongue. Racing up from London to find my mother on an A&E trolley deranged with dehydration, I didn't ask why no one in five hours had given her water. In a rehabilitation unit after a fall, she was kept alone in a room, never saw a physio, the nurses were slovenly and unkind. But these were low-paid workers; I am not, so I said nothing, and just took her home.

This unquestioning goodwill towards the NHS is deep-rooted and mainly justified. But it is also, too often, our undoing. Yet again the senior midwife Donna Ockenden is investigating a scandal in maternity care. Nottingham University Hospitals Trust is implicated in the deaths or injuries of 1,700 babies. Why, before it got to this grotesque figure — a whole secondary school of children — did no one spot a pattern, order a review, assess mistakes, ask what the hell was going on?

Nottingham will soon join East Kent (45 needless baby deaths), Morecambe Bay (11 dead babies and one mother) and Shrewsbury and Telford (300 babies dead or brain-damaged, nine dead mothers) as trusts failing to address patterns of catastrophic failure. It is mind-blowing that the NHS in England now pays £8.2 billion in annual clinical negligence compensation for maternity care, more than double the total £3.2 billion maternity and neonatal budget. Bereaved parents campaigning for justice all echo Merope Mills: they say they fought to be heard.

Even more shocking is the institutional response after a death.

> Her death is just another 'bad outcome' in a broken system

Doctors close ranks, refuse to attribute blame, while hospitals try to smooth over a tragedy, as when whistleblowing consultants were told to stop emailing managers with their fears about the baby-murderer Lucy Letby, to avoid a police investigation and reputational damage. At Shrewsbury, bereaved parents reported scant compassion, just a letter asking "if you would like to come and have a chat with me about the death of your baby". A chat.

It is disturbing to find medics are not all the life-saving heroes we were led to believe. But in any profession, some are substandard, callow and heartless. After Martha's death, Mills found Instagram posts from a doctor who had expressed deep regret but a few days later was swanning around at a luxury conference hotel. Another arch-blunderer has been promoted to consultant. Her most important lesson is "our trust in doctors should have limits".

Meanwhile, her husband disappeared down dark chatroom rabbit holes to find junior doctors on Reddit discussing their case. "Patients' degree of entitlement/inability to accept mistakes is just simply unsustainable, wholly incorrect and an enormous burden," wrote one. Others railed at the emotion Mills expresses in an article — "Grief isn't an excuse to act out" — or her unrealistic expectations of mortality: "People die and that's life".

Mistakes are made: who'd become a doctor if every simple error was a crime? But for all these dead babies and mothers, some who weren't even granted the dignity of an internal inquiry, no one has ever gone to prison. Now in Nottingham, police are investigating and corporate manslaughter charges are possible.

Yet no one will ever be punished for denying Martha Mills an intensive care bed, for petty, egotistical reasons. Martha is just another "bad outcome" in a broken system desperately underfunded but also covering its institutional crimes by playing to our battered national faith.

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor should be sent to **letters@thetimes.co.uk or by post to 1 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9GF**

Council cash woes

Sir, I agree entirely with Emma Duncan (comment, Sep 8). Local government is in a mess, caused largely by governments of all colours gradually emasculating what was once the cornerstone of civic progress. They do not trust local politicians and their officers to do a decent job and, to make matters worse, have gradually reduced their central funds to a point where books cannot be balanced without even more draconian cuts to services.

Relying on the regressive council tax, still based in England on early 1990s property values, makes no sense at all. It needs scrapping in favour of a land value tax and/or a local income tax. Then real fiscal power needs to be devolved to a streamlined local government comprising unitary authorities and, eventually, regional assemblies.

John Marriott
North Hykeham, Lincs

Sir, As a former borough council leader, it was refreshing to read Emma Duncan's well-informed analysis. My authority became one of 15 to lose all its central government funding, known as the revenue support grant. To deliver our services, we were told to raise money through economic and housing growth, increasing fees and charges and bidding for local growth funding pots. It's no surprise that many councils — we were not one of them — took riskier decisions in the face of cuts to services valued by residents.

Nicolas Heslop
Tonbridge, Kent

Concrete chaos

Sir, I would be delighted if someone could provide information on the incidence of reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (Raac) causing concern and requiring replacement in the private sector. I cannot believe that the issue is limited to public services (news, Aug 31; Sep 1, 2 & 4-8).

Alan Finlay
London NW4

Sir, Liverpool Royal Infirmary opened in 1889. It was replaced in the 1960s by the Royal Liverpool Hospital, which lasted until last year (it was due to be replaced in 2017 but Carillion collapsed). The original Victorian building is still in good condition and is now the Institute of Psychology and Health. Something is very wrong when the length of time a building can exist safely is getting shorter and shorter.

Brenda Wolfe
Liverpool

Corrections and clarifications

ipso. Regulated

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Importance of listening to patients' families

Sir, The harrowing circumstances of the death of 13-year-old Martha Mills (news, Sep 5; letters, Sep 6, 7 & 8) should surely be a lesson to all connected with the NHS — politicians, administrators, consultants and nurses alike.

Why in this day and age do we still have an NHS which basically runs a hospital service only from Monday to Friday? Consultants striking for larger salaries need to work as normal at weekends along with the rest of NHS staff. Illness doesn't suddenly cease on a Saturday and Sunday.

Listening to patients' or relatives' concerns has never been automatic; often relatives' concerns are regarded as interfering rather than helpful. "Martha's rule" should be implemented across the NHS without delay.

Cath Manchester
Whittle-le-Woods, Lancs

Sir, I was taught that the first rule of paediatrics is always listen to the parents/primary carer. They usually know their child far better than you and are invariably right.

Professor Richard Grundy
Professor of paediatric neuro-oncology and cancer biology, Nottingham University

Sir, I agree with the call for patients to be given the right to a second opinion ("Martha's Rule", leading article, Sep 6), especially where the patient's condition is a cause for concern. A greater use of artificial intelligence and related support systems in healthcare settings could also help. Diagnostic algorithms could be set up to process clinical data that are already routinely gathered so if particular symptoms of a clinical condition appear, or a combination of symptoms develop, the AI system would send a warning to staff to take immediate action.

Narinder Kapur
Visiting professor of neuropsychology, University College London

Sir, Every word of the articles about Martha Mills echo how I feel after the traumatic death of my dear husband, Keith, in King's College Hospital in February. He had a supposed urine infection but died from septic shock after his health deteriorated over three weeks. He had complex health issues including mental ill health and I was his advocate, his voice. Sadly I was left feeling that I wasn't being sufficiently consulted or listened to; on occasions I felt dismissed as an interfering wife. I could have told them of a severe chest infection last year, and they might have treated him differently.

I would like to fully support Martha's rule in any way that would make a difference to how we as family members are taken seriously, listened to and consulted on the treatment of our seriously ill relatives.

Brenda Webb
Purley, Croydon

Sir, When I started my first paediatric job as a senior house officer in 1971 the consultant told me that if his extremely experienced ward sister was concerned about the actions of any of the junior doctors, she would contact him. One night I was sure my treatment of a diabetic child was correct and we just needed to wait. The sister telephoned the consultant who spoke to me, agreed with my assessment and the child recovered soon after. In those days the wards were run extremely well by ward sisters who, in my experience, had a very good relationship with the doctors.

I was also told that if a parent was very concerned about their child they needed to be taken seriously.

Dr Susan Colvin (ret'd GP)
London SE3

School gender rules

Sir, When our son, after 30 years of attempting to live a "normal" life, was eventually able to declare himself male, aged 45, the relief was incalculable. He has never looked back, all four of his teenage children are 100 per cent supportive and protective and we are very proud of him. But those years beforehand were utterly desperate and nearly destroyed him and his family. The thought of children in the same situation having to cope with teachers who cannot even address them with their chosen pronoun is extremely distressing. Thank you, Rishi Sunak, for your understanding ("Sunak to block ban on children changing gender", news, Sep 7; letter, Sep 8).

Diana Wainman
Ashe, Hants

Sir, You report that a private gender clinic has been set up by a group of people who until recently worked in the discredited Tavistock clinic (news, Sep 6). How can this be? The closure of the Tavistock clinic followed revelations of the staff's unquestioning approach to dealing with troubled children, the default solution invariably involving powerful drugs with irreversible effects. The government should act swiftly to ensure that this harmful proposal proceeds no further.

Jeremy Sellick
Charlton Musgrove, Somerset

King's global role

Sir, Your leading article "Steady Reign" (Sep 8) states that the King, as head of the Commonwealth, can be expected to preside over a "diminishing constellation of former colonies and dominions". In fact, the Commonwealth, far from diminishing, grew by two new members last year and several other nations have indicated their wish to join. Yet more want to be associated in some way in fast-changing geopolitical conditions.

It is important not to mix up the handful of realms of which the King is still the constitutional head of state — a leftover from the original British Commonwealth and Empire — with this growing network, the vast majority of which are republics. The remaining few may want to move to republican status as members as and when they choose. In practice it will make precious little difference for most of them, or for us.

Lord Howell of Guildford
President of the Commonwealth all-party parliamentary group and former Commonwealth minister, House of Lords

Prison monitoring

Sir, On Thursday, as I have done monthly for the past seven years, I ran my regular discussion group for prisoners sentenced to life. I do so because I recognise that light-touch monitoring by even a retired judge can spot what is going well, and what is wrong, in prisons. Two months ago I visited HMP Wandsworth, with which I was once very familiar. Shambles is too polite a word for that experience. Hand-wringing after a Colditz-type escape (news, Sep 7 & 8) is all very well, but the promised inquiry might usefully consider the positive benefits of judicial supervision, which I have been advocating for more than 20 years.

His Honour John Samuels KC
Richmond, Surrey

THE CHIVALRY OF CRICKET

FROM THE TIMES SPTEMBER 9, 1923

In a recent number of The Times, there was recorded an accident to a bowler during a match at Lord's, which forced him to deliver the last balls of his over with his left hand; off these balls, in the words of the reporter, "Mr --- of course, did not attempt to score." Most cricketers will have read these words without surprise; it will seem to them the natural thing to happen; but it is worthwhile, perhaps, to call their attention to the fact that, by this assumption, they are claiming that their favourite game is governed by standards quite different from those which prevail elsewhere, and to consider in what this difference may be said to lie. In the first place, it may be said, without fear of contradiction, that nothing of the kind could occur in any other game — at any rate, any game conducted under conditions of keen competition similar to those in county cricket. Should a forward in League football have been unlucky enough to injure his right foot, few things are more improbable than that the opposing backs would purposely give him time to shoot with his left; nor would an injury to the left arm of a goalkeeper cause the opposing side to attack the other side of the goal. At Henley, this year, one of the oars in a boat fainted at the mile when the crews were level; this did not prevent the opposing crew from finishing the course and securing the victory. No one dreamt of criticising the result, on the obvious ground that not to be fit to stay the course is a fair disqualification. It is needless to multiply instances from other fields of sport. And if these things are done in the green fields of golf and football, it is unlikely that a different code prevails on the green tables of billiards or bridge. Cricket, then, is governed by a spirit which we may not unfairly call that of chivalry, a spirit of a noble folly. Critics will emphasise its fundamental foolishness or its essential nobility, but its nature is everywhere plain. But it is worthwhile to consider how far cricketers are prepared to let the chivalrous principle carry them. Is it right or wrong to take every advantage that chance or accident may give? W G Grace would have had no doubt of the answer, but most cricketers will prefer that the question should not be put. They value the thought that their game is not as other games are.

THETIMES.CO.UK/ARCHIVE

Firms need AI help

Sir, We need to focus on more than safety if the UK is to become a world leader in artificial intelligence (news, Sep 4 & 6). The government's ambitions for the AI safety conference are "to ensure nations and citizens globally can realise its benefits". It is unclear how this will be achieved with a siloed focus on safety.

It is unsurprising that AI — a technology that promotes efficiency and positively disrupts traditional markets — has been adopted with such enthusiasm (84 per cent of UK businesses trust AI and are using it, according to our research). However, only 6 per cent of companies have an AI strategy in place, demonstrating that most businesses are only scratching the surface of its capabilities.

Safety must play a key part in the development and use of AI, but businesses need the tools to create a robust AI strategy, too. The government has an opportunity to define what this could be. Addressing accessibility, training and innovation in equal measure will set UK-based businesses apart from their global competitors.

Dave Williams
President, Slalom UK & Ireland

Food for thought

Sir, I agree with Sarah McKenna (letter, Sep 7) about tackling obesity. As an assistant head, I had to stop secondary school pupils from selling their dinner tickets every day to younger pupils who could fill their plates and throw the surplus away. The older ones went to a local chicken and chip shop. They didn't get to walk it off; they had a free bus pass to get them back to school on time.

Ian Groves
St Albans

Post haste

Sir, Given the volume of complaints about deliveries on your letters page (Sep 8), Royal Mail should have had plenty of practice at perfecting its apologies. However, an apology about a lack of post at Christmas continued: "Please be assured that we take letting our customers down seriously and will use this information to make further improvements."

Neil Bennett
London SW12

Sir, A glossy flyer from Royal Mail reads: "Your postie can now deliver your NHS prescription. How good is that?" Not bad. Letters would be even better.

Gareth Williams
Rockhampton, Glos

City entry fees

Sir, London may have fewer canals than Venice and Birmingham (news, Sep 6; letter, Sep 8) but visitors driving into it are charged £12.50 a day — more than three times the entrance fee that Venice will impose.

Nigel à Brassard
London SW7

Tickled by Doddy

Sir, I read the review of the exhibition dedicated to the life of Ken Dodd (news, Sep 8). I always thought his best line was after his protracted court case with the Inland Revenue. "I didn't think it applied to me — I live by the seaside."

Mike Roberts
South Cheriton, Somerset

Leading articles

Daily Universal Register

Germany: Sixth Invictus Games for wounded servicemen and women begin in Düsseldorf.
India: G20 summit opens in Delhi.

Birthdays today



John Preston, *pictured*, journalist and author, *The Dig* (2007), *A Very English Scandal* (2016), *Fall: The Mystery of Robert Maxwell* (2021), 70; **Lord (Bill) Bradshaw**, Liberal Democrat politician, 87; **Michael Bublé**, singer, *To Be Loved* (2013), 48; **Patrick Collison**, entrepreneur, co-founder and CEO of the technology company Stripe, 35; **Natasha Kaplinsky**, newsreader and TV presenter, 51; **Duncan Kenworthy**, film producer, *Love Actually* (2003), 74; **Sir David Klenerman**, biophysical chemist, professor of biophysical chemistry, University of Cambridge, 64; **Peter Kyle**, Labour MP for Hove, shadow science, innovation and technology secretary, 53; **Graham Onions**, cricketer, Lancashire (2018-20) and England (2009-12), 41; **Richard Sharp**, rugby union player, England (1960-67), 85; **Prof Sir Adrian Smith**, mathematician, president, the Royal Society, director and chief executive, the Alan Turing Institute, 77; **Dave Stewart**, singer and record producer, Eurythmics, 71; **Dr Shirley Summerskill**, Labour MP (1964-83), Home Office minister (1974-79), 92; **Sir Keith Willett**, professor of orthopaedic trauma surgery, University of Oxford, and medical director for acute care, NHS England, 66; **Michelle Williams**, actress, *The Fabelmans* (2022), 43.

Birthdays tomorrow



Jack Grealish, *pictured*, footballer, Manchester City and England, 28; **Sir Thomas Allen**, opera singer, chancellor, Durham University (2011-22), 79; **Baroness (Lorely) Burt of Solihull**, Lib Dem MP (2005-15), 69; **Misty Copeland**, ballerina, 41; **Chris Columbus**, film director and producer, *Home Alone* (1990), 65; **Edmund de Waal**, ceramic artist and writer, 59; **Baroness (Audrey) Emerton**, president, Florence Nightingale Foundation (2014-16), chief commander, St John Ambulance (1998-2002), 88; **Siobhan Fahey**, singer-songwriter, Bananarama and Shakespears Sister, 65; **Colin Firth**, actor, *The King's Speech* (2010), 63; **Judy Geeson**, actress, *To Sir, with Love* (1967), 75; **David "Diddy" Hamilton**, disc jockey, 85; **Richard Harpin**, founder and chairman, HomeServe and Growth Partner, 59; **Amy Irving**, actress, *Yentl* (1983), 70; **Marian Keyes**, writer, *Again, Rachel* (2022), 60; **Sam Kerr**, footballer, Chelsea FC and captain of the Australia women's national team, 30; **Dame Shân Legge-Bourke**, lord-lieutenant of Powys (1998-2018), 80; **Peter Lovesey**, writer, *The Last Detective* (1991), 87; **Jack Ma**, co-founder of Alibaba, 59; **Eoin Morgan**, cricketer, Middlesex CCC (2005-2023), one-day international and T20 captain of the England team (2015-22), 37; **Guy Ritchie**, film director, *The Covenant* (2023), 55; **Peter Straus**, managing director, RCW literary agency, 63; **Viscount (John) Thurso**, chairman, VisitScotland, 70.

On this day

In **1513** King James IV of Scotland was defeated and killed by English troops at the Battle of Flodden in Northumberland.

The last word

"Absence diminishes commonplace passions and increases great ones, as the wind extinguishes candles and kindles fire." Duc de la Rochefoucauld, moralist, *Maxims* (1678)

Indian Summer

A free-trade agreement with Delhi would be an immense prize, which Rishi Sunak should strive to advance on his trip to the G20 summit this weekend

Though lagging in the polls at home, Rishi Sunak can expect a warm reception at the G20 summit this weekend in Delhi. Mr Sunak was widely hailed in the country of his parents' descent on becoming prime minister. The meat of the summit, hosted by the government of Narendra Modi, will be policy on development. But Mr Sunak will also seek to prepare the ground for a bilateral free-trade agreement between the UK and India.

It is important he does. Negotiating a trade deal of substance will take time and effort but the prize would be great. It is not only because of the historic ties between the two countries that a deal matters. India is the world's most populous nation, and is on course to be its third-largest economy by 2050. Its potential for British exporters is immense. Indeed, India accounts for only about 2 per cent of this country's total trade, and is not even among its top ten trading partners. Moreover, India's industrial specialisms, such as textiles, do not significantly compete with UK producers.

Being a bilateral issue, UK-Indian trade is not part of the formal business of the G20 summit. But Kemi Badenoch, the trade minister, will accompany Mr Sunak to Delhi and hold talks with her counterparts and with business leaders. It would be desirable if the discussions were intensive and discreet rather than for show. Mr Modi and Boris Johnson, prime minister at the time, announced an "enhanced trade partnership" in May 2021 as the first step towards a comprehensive free-trade agreement. Mr Johnson sunnily suggested a deal could be achieved by October last year. It has not turned out that way, and the task falls to Mr Sunak to attend to the details and hasten it.

Trade barriers between the parties are high and costly. Tariffs on British exports of whisky and cars are in triple figures, effectively pricing these goods out of the market for all but a small subset of affluent Indian consumers. Even if those tariffs are slashed, there remain "rules of origin", stipulating the amount of imported components of a good that qualify it as domestically produced and thus eligible for a lower tariff. And none of this addresses trade in services, which dominate Britain's economy. Sectors including travel, finance and legal services could potentially generate substantial revenues in the Indian market.

In negotiations with Delhi, British policymakers should hold to three principles. First, it is a fair trade-off to agree to more visas for Indian workers and students. Indeed, the skills and enterprise of Indian citizens would benefit Britain, currently experiencing acute labour shortages.

Second, a quid pro quo should be that India substantially opens up its economy. Since independence, India's economic path has been guided by a philosophy of state planning and import substitution in preference to free markets and open trade. It would be a net gain to Indian producers as well as British exporters to reduce the complexity of obtaining business permits, bolster the protection of intellectual property, and rigorously enforce laws of contract.

There is an additional consideration, unrelated to trade but central to the notion of a rules-based global system, that Mr Sunak should make clear to his hosts this weekend, at the summit and in private. India has dragged its feet in international action against Russia for its aggression against Ukraine. There is no room for neutrality when a member-state of the United Nations suffers invasion, war crimes and illegal annexation of its territory. Mr Modi is a prominent figure on the world stage and should fulfil his responsibilities.

Mr Sunak could gainsay his critics. Brexit enables Britain to pursue its own trade agreements but with less negotiating leverage than the European Union wields. A comprehensive trade deal with India may yet be a test case where the gain proves to outweigh the disadvantage.

Home Truths

Building controls are strangling the construction industry and economic growth

One of Britain's long-term strategic advantages is that, as the populations of some of its competitors stagnate or fall, its own population is set to grow. After a spurt over the past 20 or so years caused mainly by immigration, resulting in the population rising by 8 million to 68 million, the rate of increase is expected to slow but continue, reaching 74 million by 2060. In contrast the number of Italians will fall from 59 million today to maybe 48 million in that year. Japan will experience a similar demographic collapse as its population ages, plummeting from about 126 million now to just 96 million over the same period.

Some Britons will bemoan a bigger population in these islands, regarding them as congested enough. But as lifespans lengthen the old must be paid for; that means more taxpaying workers. Britain's vibrant demographic outlook means that it is expected to remain one of the top ten economies in 2075. Grey-haired Japan and Italy, meanwhile, will be long gone, demoted from the economic premier league. This is why housing is not a parochial issue. The future depends on giving the young workers of tomorrow somewhere to live.

In light of this the government's politically inspired decision to drop its support for housebuilding in the southeast of England, where the demand for new homes is greatest, is a policy failure of the first magnitude. Britain should be building half a million new homes a year and until recently ministers were insisting councils observe a mandatory target of 300,000. That goal has now been sacrificed on the altar of appeasing rural Conservative backbenchers fearful of a backlash in their green and pleasant constituencies.

Now, the head of one of Britain's biggest housebuilders is warning that last year's wholly inadequate total of 210,000 newbuilds could be cut in half by 2026. Rob Perrins, chief executive of Berkeley, says the scrapping of the mandatory target has inspired a culture of "saying no" in local authorities. Figures on grants of planning permission for housing developments in England bear him out, dropping to their lowest level since 2006. Halving current housebuilding could cost 500,000 jobs.

The prime minister and his housing secretary, Michael Gove, hope that urban brownfield sites can take up some of the slack. Yet restrictions on building heights in London, issued by its mayor but supported by the government, mean that 40 per cent fewer homes can be built on the same land.

The political calculations of the Tory party are in danger of strangling Britain's housebuilding industry, retarding economic growth and depriving young people of the affordable homes they so desperately need. More expensive mortgages are not helping. Construction companies are going out of business at the highest rate in a decade.

When a rural council, especially a Conservative one, is told that a compulsory building target is now voluntary it does not take a genius to work out what will — or rather will not — happen. Messrs Sunak and Gove are fully aware that they are placing Tory nimbyism before economic progress and the national good. This is a matter of regret.

For Labour this is a gaping hole in Tory policy that it should ruthlessly exploit. Angela Rayner, with her new housing brief, is expected to do just that with a proposal to help first-time buyers with state mortgage guarantees and other measures. The contested greenfield sites of the Home Counties could turn out to be fertile ground for Labour.

Climate Changes

Contributors to top scientific journals are skewing results to satisfy editors' biases

The physicist Alan Sokal pulled off one of the most damning scholarly hoaxes of recent decades when, in 1996, he persuaded a literary journal to accept a wilfully nonsensical paper. The Sokal Affair, as it became known, was designed to expose the lax standards in the less rigorous publications, where research passed muster so long as it "flattered the editors' ideological preconceptions".

It might be hoped that climate science is immune to such groupthink. But in our weekend essay, Patrick Brown, a former academic, argues persuasively that it isn't. His research into Californian wildfires was published last week in Nature, one of the most renowned scientific journals. To ensure it was accepted, however, required "customising the research" so as to render it "compatible with the confirmation bias of the editors".

Influential journals, Dr Brown alleges, are unwilling to consider research which downplays the scale of climate change or which emphasises the viability of adaptive measures as an alternative to emissions reductions. In the competitive world of academia, where landing papers in leading publications determines one's career prospects, the perception of bias on the part of editors can fundamentally warp the direction of research.

There is no suggestion that Dr Brown's paper contained outright falsehood. The bias is subtler than that. Instead, he isolated climate change as the sole variable in explaining the risk of Californian wildfires, a misleading focus given that 80 per cent of wildfires in America are started by humans. According to Brown, other strategies are often used to inflate the scale of climate change, yielding eye-popping statistics.

These tactics lead to work that is deceptive and neglects promising lines of inquiry for fear of challenging consensus. Such incuriosity is the hallmark of bad science and timid politics.

Write to Feedback by emailing
feedback@thetimes.co.uk or by post to
1 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9GF

Britons never, never, never will be named

Rose Wild
Feedback



@TIMESFEEDBACK

We reported on Tuesday that the cellist Sheku Kanneh-Mason, interviewed in anticipation of the Last Night of the Proms, had made an innocuous remark to the effect that, each to his own, but flag-waving and *Rule, Britannia!* weren't really his cup of tea. It was hardly revolutionary stuff. In fact, anyone young and musical might say the same.

Commenting on the interview, Richard Morrison, our chief culture writer, eschewed Sheku's tact. *Rule, Britannia!*, he wrote, is "a racist chant, and not even set to particularly good music". This "bilious assertion", as one reader described it, was the trigger for some crochety venting in the online comment thread. All the usual totems were invoked — King Alfred, Danelaw, the War of Jenkins' Ear, William the Conqueror, William Wilberforce, Barbary pirates, Cornish fishermen and the rest.

In reply to a commenter who said he too felt uncomfortable with some of the ecstatic patriotism on display, Dr B Reay exclaimed: "You object to the English singing a quintessentially English song at an English celebration in an English venue in London? Because you're Welsh?!"

Hang on. The song's about Britons, isn't it? And aren't the Welsh Britons too, perhaps even more so than the English? Nowadays we use Britons to describe citizens of Great Britain if we don't need to specify which nation they're from — and it has the advantage of being gender neutral.

Things were not always so easy. In his 1965 revision of Fowler's *Modern English Usage*, Sir Ernest Gowers wrote: "It must be remembered that no Englishman, or perhaps no Scotsman even, calls himself a Briton without a sneaking sense of the ludicrous." Why ludicrous? Apparently it conjured up images of blue-painted barbarians.

A hundred years ago the poet laureate, Sir Robert Bridges, launched a campaign on behalf of the Society for Pure English to find "the right names for the inhabitants of the United Kingdom and for the members of the British Empire". In a leading article The Times explained that the society, "forbids both 'Briton' and 'Britisher', the former because there is an ineradicable tinge of the woad about it, and because of certain 'patriotic' associations which it conveys, that are not of the 'best sort'; and the latter because it is an Americanism which has now been disowned even by its inventors."

So, patriotism came in different sorts, even then. I wonder what our leader writer would have made of the flag-waving in the Albert Hall. Briton, he elaborated, "though passable enough in the literature of the 18th century and in a heroic setting", was by the 1920s used only as a joke.

Sadly, the appeal to readers for a plausible alternative fell on stony ground. Nothing being forthcoming, The Times concluded, "Our race has apparently outstripped its powers of self-description; by growing great and ubiquitous it has become nameless and perhaps unnameable."

Dummy run

An email arrived on Wednesday from Anna Mackean, asking if we could explain the picture caption on our interview with Jonny May, the England rugby wing. She sent a cutting, for reference, and it's fair to say that, as captions go, this one was inscrutable: "All those things which falls under the cognizance of man might very likely be mutually related in the same fashion … "

Anna's cutting was from the early London edition and, happily, most people will have seen later editions with something more to the point: "Clockwise from left: England are lining up Smith as a replacement full back," etc, etc.

It's rare that placeholder copy — a piece of random text pasted in to fill the design until the final pictures or copy are decided — actually gets as far as the customer. If it does, most people would recognise the nonsense Latin "Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet", which is most commonly used.

In this case whoever put the rugby pages together seems to have been reading Descartes. Googling that rogue caption revealed that it comes from his 1637 *Discourse on the Method Of Rightly Conducting the Reason*. I'm impressed.

Stumbling block

'I wish to complain about the cartoon in The Times today of the education secretary portraying her as an airhead with a block of concrete for a head," wrote Maria Caulfield on Thursday. Caulfield is the minister for women, and has a lot to say about misogyny and the difficult lot of women in politics. Some of it is fair, but I think she misunderstands the role of the political cartoonist. True misogyny deserves to be called out, but simply being a woman doesn't — and shouldn't — spare you the satirist's pen when you've done something daft.

And, given her ministerial brief, I wonder if Caulfield might want to rethink the phrasing of her final suggestion, that we "play the ball rather than the man".

Summer loving

'Oh dear," writes Gordon Elliot from Burford. "The sun makes an appearance and, right on cue, comes a headline about an Indian summer. Since 1916 the Met Office definition of an Indian summer has been 'a warm, calm spell of weather occurring in autumn, especially in October and November'. If there is warm weather in early September, it isn't an Indian summer. It's just summer."

Thanks for that. Long may it last, whatever it is.

Wildlife buffs

Pauline Metcalf wrote, "You report that 'naturists' believe the Loch Ness monster is a giant eel. Did you mean 'naturalists'?"

Very possibly, yes. Loch Ness seems a draughty choice of venue to study nature in the raw.

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Sometimes, voters are grateful for a government only when it's dead

Matt Chorley



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Winston Churchill woke just before dawn with a "sharp stab of almost physical pain". It was the moment he realised that the great British public weren't so great after all. He had won the war but lost the peace. After a restless night he got up, climbed into his favoured romper suit, lit a cigar and slumped into a chair to sulk as the miserable election results came in. After all he had done for them, this is how they repaid him.

Say what you like about Rishi Sunak, but he is not Churchill. (Luckily his views on India are a good deal sounder than his predecessor's, for one thing, what with the G20 meeting in Delhi this weekend.) But he could learn a lesson about expecting gratitude.

"The vast majority," Sunak declared at PMQs, "will not be affected." Well that's all right, then: 99 per cent of schools aren't falling down, 99 per cent of prisoners aren't hanging off a fruit-and-veg van like in an episode of *Porridge*, 99 per cent of Tory MPs aren't grabbing bottoms, 99 per cent of river water isn't turds. Nobody ever talks about THAT, do they?

It will do Sunak no good grumbling that people haven't celebrated that their energy bills could have been astronomical rather than merely crippling or that the last three grim years actually weren't grim because the Office for National Statistics has shifted a line up on a GDP chart.

Gillian Keegan, who is keeping the economy afloat in blow-dries alone, asked while still mic-ed up: "Does anyone ever say: 'You know what, you've done a f***ing good job because everyone else has sat on their arse and done nothing?'" And then she answered her own question: "No signs of that, no?" No. Because that's not how life works. As a man on my monthly Times Radio focus group said this week: "My regional manager doesn't come to me and say 'Well done, you've done exactly what you were supposed to do at work today.' "

History is littered with politicians who did not get the gratitude they felt, understandably, that they deserved. John Major and Ken Clarke turned the economy around before 1997 but Tony Blair and Gordon Brown reaped the benefits. Brown then boasted he had "saved the world" but voters had again had enough. After a war, a recession, a crash and a pandemic, a change really is as good as a rest.

"We are going to win," Churchill had declared when the first election for a decade was called weeks after the end of the Second World War in 1945. "I feel it in my bones." He should have ignored his bones and looked more closely at the polls, instead of dismissing them as "dangerous". A Gallup poll in the run-up to the election gave Clement Attlee's Labour a six-point lead. Even the News Chronicle, which commissioned the poll, played it down, insisting it "does not pretend to foretell the results of the election". But it did: Labour won an eight-point lead, and a majority of 145 MPs.

When Churchill's wife, Clemmie, suggested that the crushing defeat might be a blessing in disguise, he replied: "At the moment it is certainly very well disguised." It might be time for Sunak to buy himself a romper suit. I'm sure Prada do a lovely one.

How musical fans forced MI5 to come clean

Thanks to a West End show, we now know more about a woman who made a remarkable contribution to the war effort

Ben Macintyre



@BENMACINTYRE1

ALEX HARVEY-BROWN



Operation Mincemeat by the troupe SpitLip has sparked some historical sleuthing into a tale previously told in a 1953 book, below; Hester Leggatt, left, as a schoolgirl. It has been confirmed she worked for MI5

In 1943 a group of gifted amateur spooks came up with a ruse to win the war, by bringing a person back from the dead.

In the 80 years since, the tale of Operation Mincemeat has become deeply embedded in our cultural DNA, a true story that sounds wholly fictional and quite barmy: MI5 obtained the body of a homeless Welshman, equipped him with an entirely new identity and false documents, took the corpse to Spain by submarine and then shipped it ashore for the German intelligence service to find. It worked, and persuaded Hitler to divert troops from Sicily, where the Allies were landing, to Greece and Sardinia, where they were not.



The idea came from a detective novel by Basil Thomson, which was read by the future novelist Ian Fleming, then assistant to the head of naval intelligence, and put into action by a bunch of novelists and would-be novelists in the intelligence services. It was first revealed after the war in yet another novel, *Operation Heartbreak*, by Duff Cooper. Then one of the main protagonists, Ewen Montagu, wrote a book, *The Man Who Never Was*, which was turned into a film of that name in 1956 starring Clifton Webb.

I wrote a book about Operation Mincemeat in 2010. That was adapted into a film in 2021 directed by John Madden and starring Colin Firth and Matthew Macfadyen. And now the story has been turned into a highly successful, all-singing, all-dancing musical farce, by the musical comedy troupe SpitLip. The show opened in the West End last May and has since had its run extended four times by popular demand, to next February. (Alas, I receive no royalties.) In this newspaper, Clive Davis described the musical as "gloriously inventive … with an unexpected air of poignancy". I am going to see it next week for the first time. I can't wait.

But here is where this story of cultural evolution gets distinctly odd.

In the course of researching my book, I got to know the late Jean Leslie, a former secretary in MI5 who had allowed her photograph to be inserted into the dead man's wallet, to represent his invented fiancée, "Pam". Jean told me that the love letters from Pam that accompanied her photo had been written by another secretary, one Hester Leggett (sic), an unmarried woman rather cruelly nicknamed "The Spin" (spinster). Jean remembered that Hester had "poured her heart" into the letters but could tell me almost nothing else about her. In the recent film the part of Hester is played by Penelope Wilton.

Musical theatre spawns a peculiarly obsessive fan base and this is particularly true of *Operation Mincemeat*: some have seen the show dozens of times, others dress up in costume and a few dive deep into the history. Hester plays a key role in the musical and a group of diehard fans, calling themselves "The Mincefluencers", set out to track her down. Starting last June, they ("they" include teachers, solicitors, people in cybersecurity and Big Tech, a cancer research scientist, someone in the ambulance service, a barrister plus — as you'd expect — authors and creatives) began scouring the National Archives at Kew and the Imperial War Museum, conducting open-source investigations, attempting to locate potential relatives and pooling their research on a private server. They used the hashtag #FindingHester. They wrote to MI5, asking for confirmation that she had worked in the wartime security services.

Gradually, the real woman took shape. It seemed that Hester was not Leggett, which was how Jean had spelt her name to me, but Hester May Murray Leggatt, with an "a". She was born in India in 1905, to a family with a tradition of military service, attended Tormead and Wycombe Abbey schools, and played the piano. Surviving samples of her handwriting appear to match that of the "Pam" letters.

Hester's letters are brilliant concoctions, perfectly capturing the cadences of an infatuated young woman, but with a hint of doom. "Darling, why did we go and meet in the middle of a war? … don't let them send you off into the blue the horrible way they do these days." In the ruse, the dead body would appear to have drowned, after an air crash at sea off the Spanish coast.

Hester's brother Bill commanded the 11th Regiment of the Honorary Artillery Company, the first guns ashore in the 1943 invasion of Sicily. The invented name given to the dead man in the Mincemeat plot was William Martin, and Pam wrote to him as "Bill". The letters Hester wrote probably helped to preserve the life of her soldier brother.

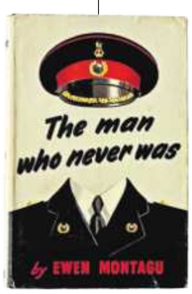
Hester Leggatt had been private secretary to the writer Osbert Sitwell before the war, and worked for the British Council after it. The Hester-hunters drew up a probable family tree, and uncovered photographs of a 1928 wedding she had attended as a bridesmaid; her distant cousin George Leggatt is a justice of the UK Supreme Court.

Hester was 37 when Operation Mincemeat was launched. She never married and died in 1995, aged 89, her role in the successful wartime deception unknown and

> Hester Leggatt's letters capture the cadences of infatuated youth

unacknowledged. The Mincefluencers appeared to have found Hester, but without official verification from the Security Service the evidence remained circumstantial. Last week MI5 finally confirmed that Hester had indeed worked for British intelligence during the war.

For decades, the identity of the "man who never was" remained a mystery. In 1996 MI5 declassified the operational files, and he was revealed as a man who most certainly was: Glyndwr Michael, a vagrant from Aberbargoed in Wales, who killed himself, perhaps intentionally, by eating bread laced with rat poison in a disused warehouse. The following year, Michael's name was added to the gravestone in Huelva cemetery, Andalusia, commemorating the invented William Martin.



Here was a real person, turned into a fiction, who became real again many decades later. The same has now happened to Hester Leggatt, thanks to a smash-hit musical, some fixated fans and a lot of diligent historical research.

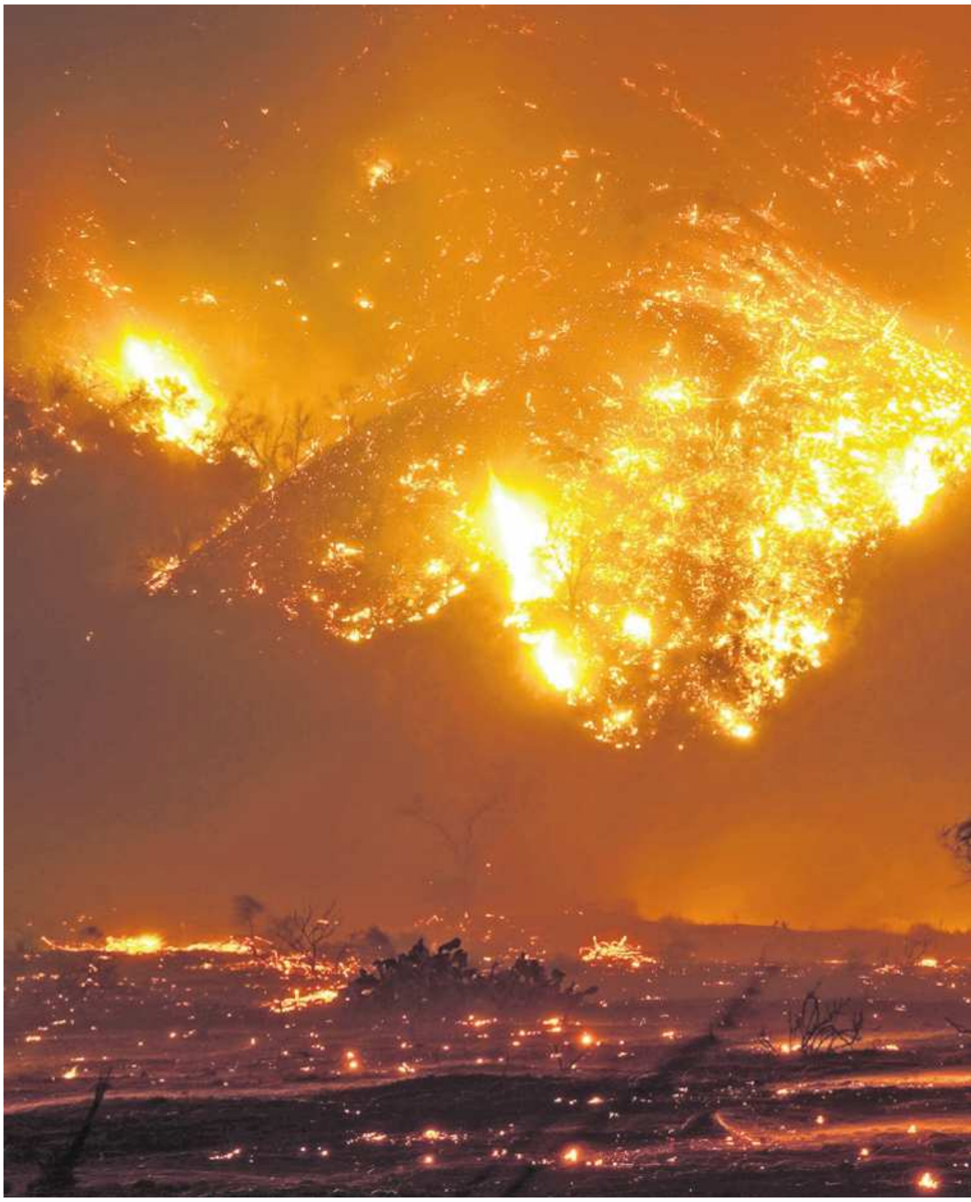
Once again, a group of talented amateurs has brought a person back from the dead.

WEEKEND ESSAY

Groupthink in science is no good for our planet



To get published in a prestigious journal, climate researchers might find they have to omit facts and ignore context. **Patrick T Brown** first described his experience for The Free Press



Global warming is being blamed for wildfires such as this one in California but the real picture is more complex; below, the science journal Nature wants its writers to stick to an accepted viewpoint, according to the author; right, protesters on a march in 2017 against Donald Trump's anti-science agenda

If you've been reading any news about wildfires this summer — from Canada to Europe to Maui — you will surely get the impression that they are mostly the result of climate change.

Here's the Associated Press: "Climate change keeps making wildfires and smoke worse. Scientists call it the 'new abnormal'."

And PBS NewsHour in the United States: "Wildfires driven by climate change are on the rise — Spain must do more to prepare, experts say."

And The New York Times: "How Climate Change Turned Lush Hawaii Into a Tinderbox."

And Bloomberg: "Maui Fires Show Climate Change's Ugly Reach."

I am a climate scientist. And while climate change *is* an important factor affecting wildfires over many parts of the world, it isn't close to the only factor that deserves our sole focus.

So why does the press focus so intently on climate change as the root cause? Perhaps for the same reasons I just did in an academic paper about wildfires in Nature, one of the world's most prestigious journals: it fits a simple storyline that rewards the person telling it.

The paper I've just published — "Climate warming increases extreme daily wildfire growth risk in California" — focuses exclusively on how climate change has affected extreme wildfire behaviour. I knew not to try to quantify key aspects other than climate change in my research because it would dilute the story that prestigious journals such as Nature and its rival, Science, want to tell.

This matters because it is critically important for scientists to be published in high-profile journals; in many ways, they are the gatekeepers for career success in academia. And the editors of these journals have made it abundantly clear, both by what they publish and what they reject, that they want climate papers that support certain pre-approved narratives — even when those narratives come at the expense of broader knowledge for society.

To put it bluntly, climate science has become less about understanding the complexities of the world and more about serving as a kind of Cassandra, urgently warning the public about the dangers of climate change. However understandable this instinct may be, it distorts a great deal of climate science research, misinforms the public and, most importantly, makes practical solutions more difficult to achieve.

Why is this happening? It starts with the fact that a researcher's career depends on his or her work being cited widely and perceived as important. This triggers the self-reinforcing feedback loops of name recognition, funding, quality applications from aspiring PhD students and postdocs, and of course, accolades.



But as the number of researchers has skyrocketed in recent years — there are close to six times more PhDs earned in the US each year than there were in the early 1960s — it has become more difficult than ever before to stand out from the crowd. So while there has always been a tremendous premium placed on publishing in journals such as Nature and Science, it has also become extraordinarily more competitive.

In theory, scientific research should prize curiosity, dispassionate objectivity and a commitment to uncovering the truth. Surely those are the qualities that editors of scientific journals should value. In reality, though, the biases of the editors (and the reviewers they call upon to evaluate submissions) exert a major influence on the collective output of entire fields. They select what gets published from a large pool of entries, and in doing so they also shape how research is conducted more broadly. Savvy researchers tailor their studies to maximise the likelihood that their work is accepted. I know this because I am one of them.

Here's how it works. The first thing the astute climate researcher knows is that his or her work should support the mainstream narrative — namely, that the effects of climate change are both pervasive and catastrophic and that the primary way to deal with them is not by employing practical adaptation measures such as stronger, more resilient infrastructure, better zoning and building codes, more air conditioning, or in the case of wildfires, better forest management or burying power lines underground, but through policies such as the US Inflation Reduction Act, aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

So in my recent Nature paper, which I authored with seven others, I focused narrowly on the influence of climate change on extreme wildfire behaviour. Make no mistake: that influence is very real. But there are also other factors that can be just as or more important, such as poor forest management and the increasing number of people who start wildfires either accidentally or on purpose. (A startling fact: over 80 per cent of wildfires in the US are ignited by humans.)

In my paper, we didn't bother to study the influence of these other obviously relevant factors. Did I know that including them would make for a more realistic and useful analysis? I did. But I also knew that it would detract from the clean narrative centred on the negative impact of climate change and thus decrease the odds that the paper would pass muster with Nature's editors and reviewers.

This type of framing, with the influence of climate change unrealistically considered in isolation, is the norm for high-profile research papers. For example, in another recent influential Nature paper, scientists calculated that the two largest climate change impacts on society are deaths related to extreme heat and damage to agriculture. However, the authors never mention that climate change is not the dominant driver for either one of these impacts: in reality, heat-related deaths have been declining, and crop yields have been increasing for decades despite climate change. To acknowledge this would imply that the world has succeeded in some areas in spite of climate change — which, the thinking goes, would undermine the motivation for emissions reductions.

KENT NISHIMURA/LOS ANGELES TIMES, ASTRID RIECKEN/WASHINGTON POST/GETTY IMAGES





This leads to a second unspoken rule in writing a successful climate paper. The authors should ignore, or at least downplay, practical actions that can counter the impact of climate change. If deaths due to extreme heat are decreasing and crop yields are increasing, then it stands to reason that we can overcome some major negative effects of climate change. Shouldn't we then study *how* we have been able to achieve success so that we can facilitate more of it? Of course we should. But studying solutions rather than focusing on problems is simply not going to rouse the public — or the press. Besides, many mainstream climate scientists tend to view the whole prospect of, say, using technology to adapt to climate change as wrongheaded; addressing emissions is the right approach. So the savvy researcher knows to stay away from practical solutions.

Here's a third trick: be sure to focus on metrics that will generate the most eye-popping numbers. Our paper, for instance, could have focused on a simple, intuitive metric like the number of additional acres that burnt or the increase in intensity of wildfires because of climate change. Instead, we followed the common practice of looking at the change in risk of an extreme event — in our case, the increased risk of wildfires burning more than 10,000 acres in a single day.

This is a far less intuitive metric, which is more difficult to translate into actionable information. So why is this more complicated and less useful kind of metric so common? Because it generally produces larger factors of increase than other calculations. To wit: you get bigger numbers that justify the importance of your work, its rightful place in Nature or Science, and widespread media coverage.

Another way to get the kind of big numbers that will justify the importance of your research — and impress editors, reviewers and the media — is to always assess the magnitude of climate change over centuries, even if that timescale is irrelevant to the impact you are studying.

For example, it is standard practice to assess impacts on society using the amount of climate change since the industrial revolution, but to ignore technological and societal changes over that time. This makes little sense from a practical standpoint, since societal changes in population distribution, infrastructure, behaviour, disaster preparedness etc have had far more influence on our sensitivity to weather extremes than climate change has since the 1800s. This can be seen, for example, in the precipitous decline in deaths from weather and climate disasters over the past century. Similarly, it is standard practice to calculate impacts for scary hypothetical future warming scenarios that strain credibility while ignoring potential changes in technology and resilience that would lessen the impact. Those scenarios always make for good headlines.

A much more useful analysis would focus on changes in climate from the recent past that living people have actually experienced and then forecasting the foreseeable future — the next several decades — while accounting for changes in technology and resilience.

In the case of my recent Nature paper, this would mean considering the impact of climate change in conjunction with anticipated reforms to forest management practices over the next several decades. In fact, our current research indicates that these changes in forest management practices could completely negate the detrimental impacts of climate change on wildfires.

> Editors' biases influence the output of entire fields: they select what is published and therefore shape how research is conducted

This more practical kind of analysis is discouraged, however, because looking at changes in impacts over shorter time periods and including other relevant factors reduces the calculated magnitude of the impact of climate change, and thus it weakens the case for greenhouse gas emissions reductions.

You might be wondering at this point if I'm disowning my own paper. I'm not. On the contrary, I think it advances our understanding of climate change's role in day-to-day wildfire behaviour. It's just that the process of customising the research for an eminent journal caused it to be less useful than it could have been.

As to why I followed the formula despite my criticisms, the answer is simple: I wanted the research to be published in the highest-profile venue possible. When I began the research for this paper in 2020, I was a new assistant professor needing to maximise my prospects for a successful career. When I had previously attempted to deviate from the formula, my papers were rejected out of hand by the editors of distinguished journals, and I had to settle for less prestigious outlets. To put it another way, I sacrificed contributing the most valuable knowledge for society in order for the research to be compatible with the confirmation bias of the editors and reviewers of the journals I was targeting.

I left academia over a year ago, partly because I felt the pressures put on academic scientists caused too much of the research to be distorted. Now, as a member of a private nonprofit research centre, the Breakthrough Institute, I feel much less pressure to mould my research to the preferences of prominent journal editors and the rest of the field.

This means conducting the version of the research on wildfires that I believe adds much more practical value for real-world decisions: studying the impacts of climate change over relevant time frames and in the context of other important changes, like the number of fires started by people and the effects of forest management. The research may not generate the same clean story and desired headlines, but it will be more useful in devising climate change strategies.

But climate scientists shouldn't have to exile themselves from academia to publish the most useful versions of their research. We need a culture change across academia and elite media that allows for a much broader conversation on societal resilience to climate. The media, for instance, should stop accepting these papers at face value and do some digging on what's been left out. The editors of the prominent journals need to expand beyond a narrow focus that pushes the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. And the researchers themselves need to start standing up to editors, or find other places to publish.

What really should matter isn't citations for the journals, clicks for the media, or career status for the academics — but research that actually helps society.

Patrick T Brown is a PhD climate scientist and co-director of the climate and energy team at the Breakthrough Institute

My Week Gillian Keegan*

Monday
They told me there was a problem with Raac a few weeks ago.

"Dominic Raac?" I said, because the name rang a bell.

But no. It's a type of crumbling concrete, and it's in lots of schools. So today I'm discussing options with the chancellor.

"It's just f***ing mad," I snort, "that people think the education secretary is responsible for schools not falling down."

Jeremy says what he's scared of is panic.

"Because the last thing parents should do when their children might be squashed by tonnes of concrete," he says, "is panic."

So I say the good news is that lots of this stuff might actually be in parts of the school where nobody goes. Like art rooms. Because most classes only get to use them once a fortnight.

"God," says Jeremy. "That's hardly ever."

"I know!" I say. "And nobody has thanked me for that, either."

Tuesday
Last night I was filmed swearing at a reporter about how ungrateful everybody is. So now I've been summoned to see the PM.

"Ooops," I say.

"No," says Rishi. "I get it. Nobody ever thanks me, either."

"Are you crying?" I say.

"Shut up," he says.

Then Rishi says it's confusing that modern concrete is such a widespread problem. Because in his experience most school buildings were built three centuries ago in the style of Sir Christopher Wren.

Either way, I tell him, the obvious solution is just to teach in other parts of the school. Corridors and stuff.

"Banquet halls," Rishi agrees. "Fives courts."

Then he says he's heard Raac is like an Aero bar. But that's also confusing, because he hasn't eaten chocolate since 1992.

"Basically," I say, "it's full of massive holes to save money."

"Ah," says Rishi. "Right. You mean like a budget."

Wednesday
Today I'm visiting a school in Essex. I'm telling the head that the media reporting around this issue has been completely sensationalist and I'm sure it's completely safe.

"So do you want to come inside?" she says.

"F*** no," I say, peering through the door.

That's when she starts crying.

"I've got a thousand kids who were supposed to be here yesterday," she says. "I'm calling officials who don't answer about mobile classrooms that don't exist. And trying to learn about structural engineering. Which is hard, because I teach English lit."

"Your problem," I tell her in disgust, "is that you need to get off your arse."

Thursday
Emergency cabinet meeting. Rishi says it's not just schools. It's everywhere. Especially hospitals. To the extent that the health secretary probably ought to tell fat people to stop climbing stairs.

"Oh God," says Steve. "I normally say the opposite."

"Anyway," says Thérèse Coffey. "It's not everywhere. We at Environment are not letting concrete fall into rivers!"

"Aren't you?" says Rishi.

"No," says Thérèse, indignantly. "Only shit."

Rishi says it's all the same, though. Crumbling schools. Filthy rivers.

Even this prisoner who just escaped. A general sense that we've let the country fall apart.

"Which is why," he says to me, "you need to stop blaming this on your predecessors. Because half the people sitting around this table have been education secretary, too."



"Only for six weeks," says James Cleverly.

"I was a day and a half," says Michelle Donelan.

"You're awfully quiet," says Rishi to Michael Gove, who was in the job for four whole years, but is now just staring innocently at the ceiling.

"Sorry," says Michael. "Bit distracted. I've just noticed a massive crack."

Friday
"So look," says Rishi. "Last month you said A-levels don't matter. This month schools are falling down. Do you think your time as education secretary is going well?"

"You f***ing bet!" I say. "Some of the photos have been really flattering."

Rishi agrees that this is very important. But also, he says, he's starting to worry a bit about my attitude.

"The swearing," he says. "The swaggering. The way you genuinely seem to think this is all somebody else's problem."

"Come on," I snort. "There are 30,000 schools in the UK. Is it really my job to care about all of them?"

"It might not be," says Rishi, "for long."

**according to Hugo Rifkind*

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Amazon and eBay liable for sellers' unsafe goods

Oliver Wright Policy Editor

Amazon and eBay are to be made liable for the sale of dangerous goods on their sites for the first time.

As part of plans being finalised by the government, online retailers will face responsibilities similar to high street shops for the products they sell. They will be fined or face bans if they continue to allow dangerous items to be listed.

The move will close a loophole in the law that has allowed companies such as Amazon to argue they are not responsible for the products of third-party sellers on their sites — even if the company distributes them.

The move follows a campaign by consumer groups to improve the regulation of online marketplaces.

The National Fire Chiefs Council warned this year about the danger of lithium batteries and chargers sold online in e-bikes and e-scooters. These have killed eight people and injured at least 190 in the UK.

London Fire Brigade said it was being called to an e-bike fire once every two days, up 60 per cent on the year. It expressed concern that unregulated online sales may breach safety standards. The consumer group Which? has found a variety of unsafe consumer products on online marketplaces, including heaters, smoke and carbon monoxide alarms and children's Halloween costumes.

It has long called for online marketplaces to be made responsible for the goods they sell in the same way as high street retailers. It found that only 21 per cent of consumers were aware online marketplaces had no legal responsibility for overseeing product safety.

Last month the government began a review that proposes to make companies such as Amazon and eBay responsible for identifying and removing listings for unsafe products. They would be required to collect and verify information about third-party sellers for high-risk products and police the products they sell.

The legislation is designed to address criticisms that while marketplaces are quick to remove listings of specific dangerous products the goods return to the sites under a different seller.

Online marketplaces would also be required to have a compliance function established in the UK. Responsibility for policing the rules is likely to be given to the Office for Product Safety and Standards which could issue compliance notices and fines. The office could restrict or block access to relevant web pages.

A government source said it intended to introduce the powers as an amendment to the Digital Markets, Competition and Consumers Bill which is currently going through parliament.

Kevin Hollinrake, the minister for enterprise and markets, said: "Online marketplaces have amassed huge power and influence, at times to the detriment of consumers and other businesses."

Amazon said: "Safety is a top priority at Amazon and we want customers to shop with confidence on our stores. We require all products offered in our store to comply with applicable laws, regulations and Amazon policies. We look forward to contributing to the review."

An eBay spokesman said: "Keeping our users safe is our top priority and we welcome the Product Safety Review. As a global platform, it is essential that we have consistency in product safety laws in different regions."

Charges over peregrine falcon egg theft

A man has been charged with stealing peregrine falcon eggs from a quarry in Derbyshire.

Christopher Wheeldon, 34, has been charged with disturbing the nesting site of a wild bird and taking the eggs of a wild bird at Bolsover Moor quarry on April 23.

Police said that Wheeldon, of Matlock, Derbyshire, is due to appear at North East Derbyshire & Dales magistrates' court, Chesterfield, on October 16. He was released on bail pending his court appearance.

Peregrines, the country's largest falcon, are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, according to the Wildlife Trusts, a charity.



Peregrines are a protected species

It is an offence to take, injure or kill a peregrine, or to take, damage or destroy its nest, eggs or young. It is also an offence to intentionally or recklessly disturb the birds close to their nest during the breeding season.

The birds frequently nest on coastal cliff edges and other rocky outcrops but have in recent years nested in locations such as Derby Cathedral and the BT Tower in Birmingham as they spread further inland.

They are known for being among the fastest animals. Peregrine falcons can reach speeds of 200mph when they dive on prey from height, known as "stooping".

Net closes on football great with a knack for financial own goals

David Brown

John Barnes remains one of England's best-loved footballers, but the exquisite skills he demonstrated on the pitch are not matched by those with his finances.

He is remembered not only for his sporting prowess but for the nonchalant backheel of a banana thrown on the pitch by racist fans and his rap on the 1990 England World Cup song *World in Motion*.

For two seasons he was the game's highest-paid player, the first to earn £10,000 a week. Now he is fighting to stave off bankruptcy after an application by HM Revenue & Customs, which said he had "a history of non-compliance" and owed £238,425.

While today's Premier League stars own country estates, Barnes, 59, lives in the same house he bought for £610,000 in 2006, and it still has a mortgage. The five-bedroom detached house on the Wirral is now worth about £1 million.

"When you're a young footballer you think this money's going to come in forever," he has said. He also admitted: "I'm not a budgeter. I never had to be when I was playing."

Barnes had been serially unfaithful to his first wife, Suzy, the mother of his eldest four children. The marriage ended when he was caught having an affair with a Miss Jamaica winner. His divorce, in 2001, would have cost a chunk of his earnings from football as well as his career on the speaking circuit. He has been married to his second wife, Andrea, for 16 years. They have three children.

Barnes's investments have included founding Team 48 Motorsport with two fellow ex-footballers, Les Ferdinand and Luther Blissett, to promote racing drivers of Afro-Caribbean backgrounds. The team barely crossed the start line before being wound up. In 2009 he said: "I don't like dealing with taxes, of course. I just hate not having enough money. Apart from that, I don't like dealing with bills and never have done. I let my wife Andrea deal with them. I don't even like opening them."

Asked if he had a financial adviser, he replied: "I don't need one — I don't have any money to invest. I think he's left me."

He was declared bankrupt shortly afterwards for failing to pay taxes, which he blamed on pressures during a disastrous managerial spell at Tranmere Rovers. "The bankruptcy issue is a tax oversight which is being dealt with," he said. The order was swiftly rescinded.

There have also been bankruptcy petitions recorded against his home in 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2019 and last year — but with no actual bankruptcies.

Supporters joked on social media this week that perhaps his attitude to paying taxes could be summarised in his own immortal turn in *World in Motion*. "You've got to hold and give, but do it at the right time," he rapped. "You can be slow or fast, but you must get to the line, they'll always hit you and hurt you, defend and attack. There's only one way to beat them. Get round the back. Catch me if you can." Barnes made just £400 from the single, as the England players agreed to divide a one-off £4,000 payment rather than take a share of royalties as they did not think the song would be a hit. It has sold millions of copies.

Barnes spent six years at Watford before moving to Liverpool in 1987. He won 79 England caps and also spent spells at Newcastle United and Charlton Athletic. But Barnes had less success in management, lasting just eight months at Celtic after taking over in 1999. He was awarded an MBE in 1998. In 2016 Times readers voted him England's greatest left foot by a "healthy margin".

Barnes now earns £200,000 a year from Liverpool after being appointed a club ambassador last year. He also charges between £3,000 and £5,000 for after-dinner speeches.

His barrister appealed to the High Court this week to allow him more time to pay his tax bill after HMRC applied for an immediate bankruptcy order. He pointed out that Barnes paid £100,000 towards his tax bill in February and £345,000 in May.

Barnes did not respond to requests for comment. After retiring from the game, he observed: "It's always better to start off with no money and get it later on, whereas where I am now, I've got no money, but had money then."

TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER BRADLEY ORMESHER







John Barnes at his home on the Wirral, which still has a mortgage; recording England's World in Motion song, for which he was paid £400; and in his Liverpool pomp. He earns £200,000 a year after being appointed a club ambassador last year

Judge fines Network Rail £6.7m over crash

Network Rail has been fined £6.7 million after admitting failings over a crash in Scotland that killed three people.

Brett McCullough, 45, the train driver, Donald Dinnie, 58, the conductor, and Christopher Stuchbury, 62, a passenger died in the derailment near Stonehaven, Aberdeenshire, on August 12, 2020. At Aberdeen high court, the company admitted a series of failings that led to the deaths, admitting a charge covering the period from May 1, 2011, to August 12, 2020.

This included failing to inform the driver that it was unsafe to travel faster than 75mph or warn him to reduce his speed amid bad weather on the day of the derailment, which also left six people injured.

Judge Lord Matthews said yesterday: "Very few people in the northeast of Scotland will ever forget the images of the carriages at Carmont [Stonehaven]. No penalty I can impose will come close to compensating those whose lives have been touched by this tragedy. The only disposal I have is a fine."

Lord Matthews told the court a fine would have been set at £10 million but was reduced due to the early plea of guilty as well as Network Rail's actions after the crash. He also reduced the fine because it was a publicly funded body.

The company admitted failings in construction, inspection and maintenance of drainage assets and in adverse and extreme weather planning.

Peter Gray KC, for Network Rail, told the court that the company's acceptance of its shortcomings was "both immediate and genuine". He said: "Its co-operation with all investigations was absolute. And its response to ensure so far as reasonably possible that such tragedy should not be repeated was comprehensive." He added that the guilty plea had avoided the need for a lengthy trial.

Alex Prentice KC, the advocate depute for the prosecution, said Network Rail had failed to maintain or inspect a drainage asset built in 2011 before the derailment. He said if the drain had been constructed to the agreed specifications it would have coped with the washout that caused the derailing.

The court was also told that the driver asked an area signaller if any speed restrictions were in place. The signaller told McCullough: "Eh no, everything's fine between myself and Stonehaven."

A Rail Accident Investigation Branch report published last March found errors in a drainage system installed by Carillion meant it was unable to cope with heavy rain on the morning of the crash. Carillion went into compulsory liquidation in January 2018.

Collectors facing a race against time to land prized watches

Ali Mitib

Enthusiasts waited in line outside stores as the release of a collaboration between Swatch and a Swiss luxury watch manufacturer created a "heightened hunger" among collectors.

Swatch, another Swiss maker, which specialises in creating affordable and eclectic watches, partnered with Blancpain, a luxury brand, to pay tribute to Fifty Fathoms, a famed diver's watch, marking 70 years since it revolutionised the craft.

The collaboration comes in five different models, each inspired by one of the world's oceans, and will be available at selected Swatch stores for £340. It comes after Swatch worked with Omega to create affordable models inspired by the watch that went to the moon, which led to thousands of people queuing up to buy the timepieces.

On the first day of the release last year the Swatch store in Covent Garden, London, was forced to close around 30 minutes after opening as a result of crowds rushing the store. Similar scenes are expected with this collaboration.

Lorin Clark, 35, who was 30th in the line to enter the store and was turned away after it shut, told The Times he would be trying his luck again.



Fans are expected to rush to buy the Swatch and Blancplain collaboration

Despite owning a Cartier, a Bremont and several Tag Heuer watches, the contract manager, from London, was excited by the Swatch launch.

"When the police ended up closing the store [in 2022] I vowed to never do it again, but I just have to get one of these watches," he said.

Despite not being a limited or special edition product, it is not expected to be widely available, with items expected to resell for over a thousand pounds.

Alice Marsden, the luxury category lead at eBay UK, said: "Swatch may well have created another special timepiece for the ages. With design nods to key elements of the Fifty Fathoms heritage and a splash of fun thanks to classically Swatch colours, the Blancpain collaboration offers the many an affordable way to purchase the aspirational.

"Its limited physical retail release has already created heightened hunger. We're sure those unable to purchase it in person will come to eBay to find it just as we saw with the MoonSwatch, as horological houses continue to play adeptly with primary market scarcity and demand."

‘The people behind AI admit they don’t

The former DJ leading the PM’s tech taskforce tells **Mark Sellman** and **Katie Prescott** the world, including China, must unite to manage risks

Until six months ago, Ian Hogarth was just a regular, successful tech entrepreneur. He had sold Songkick, a popular app for concertgoers, to Warner Music in 2017, became an investor in AI startups and co-authored a well-read industry report, the State of AI. But early this year he started to have some uncomfortable conversations with friends at the cutting edge of artificial intelligence.

Hogarth had been aware for some time that there was a disconnect between what was happening at AI companies and what the public knew. But now researchers were telling him privately over dinner that we were much closer to “God-like” AI than people realised.

This so-called artificial general intelligence would be able to generate new scientific knowledge and perform human-like tasks. But it also carries existential dangers that weren’t being talked about. Hogarth, 41, was angry about this omerta and wrote a piece entitled “We must slow down the race to God-like AI” in the FT Magazine.

It caught the eye of Whitehall and in the whirlwind of panic after the release of ChatGPT, he was appointed the government’s de-facto AI tsar, reporting to the prime minister. This week he was named one of the top 100 people in AI by Time magazine.

As chairman of the Frontier AI Taskforce, Hogarth is assembling a team to advise the British state and international community on how to build, regulate and implement AI safely. Modelled on the vaccines task force, it is also designed to increase AI expertise in Whitehall, the lack of which has been criticised by Sir Patrick Vallance, the former chief scientific adviser to the government, among others.

“When I arrived in this role there was one person in this department [Department of Science, Innovation and Technology] who had a kind of background in technical AI research,” Hogarth says. “Eleven weeks later, I’ve built a team where there’s now collectively 50 years-plus experience in frontier AI systems.”

There has been difficulty in luring the best brains from highly paid jobs in big tech companies, he hints, which is why he is probably measuring experience in years rather than headcount. “The hardest challenge [is] the people I’m trying to recruit are some of the most in-demand talent in the whole world.”

The task force will form a key role at the international AI Safety Summit being hosted at Bletchley Park in November. All of this is being done at breakneck speed. “It’s just been a really, really long summer,” says Hogarth, walking through the corridors of his new part-time office in Parliament Street in the heart of Westminster.

“It’s been a massive learning curve. Eleven weeks ago, I barely set foot in government, and I’m now working hand in hand with some of the people that we entrust to keep us safe.” The task force has just appointed Anne Keast-Butler, the director of GCHQ, and two national security advisers to its external board. It is clear that cybercrime and bioweapons are to be a key focus.

“There is a huge effort under way to develop AI systems that are superhuman at coding. And that can increase the productivity of the software profession, but it also has a dark side, which is it increases the lowest threshold and enables more people to potentially perpetuate some form of cybercrime or cyberattack. Another example would be in biology. So we’ve got this amazing wave of companies who are working to apply machine learning to engineering biology to discover new drugs … again the dark side of that is it could potentially increase the set of actors who could perpetuate some kind of biological attack.”

Hogarth may be new to Whitehall, but he has been there and bought the T-shirt when it comes to computer science. He grew up in south London and attended Dulwich College where he studied maths and further maths at A-level. An engineering degree at Cambridge followed, where he specialised in machine learning and worked on a computer system for his master’s degree to help classify breast cancer biopsy images from Addenbrooke’s Hospital. Then he veered off from a more traditional career path, working with Bain as a consultant, to pursue his two passions: music and computing.

Living near the Brixton Academy, live music was an important part of his teenage years and the former choirboy also worked as a DJ. “I was part of a DJ collective where we’d play student nights. But some of those


Ian Hogarth once called experienced

people have gone on to really prestigious DJ careers. It’s a reminder of just what a terrible DJ I actually was.” It did help him pay the rent, however, when he lived in Beijing while studying Mandarin and his Twitter/X handle remains @soundboy.

Songkick was started with Michelle You and Pete Smith in 2007. You and Hogarth have since married and have a son, aged five. Their company aimed to bring live music to the masses, making it simple to find gigs. It was nearly strangled at birth by Ticketmaster, the US giant, which tried to limit its operations. Songkick sued for anti-competitive practice and discovered that the US company had hacked into its servers. Ticketmaster paid out $110 million to Songkick in an out-of-court settlement and $10 million in a criminal fine.

“We were a startup that was trying to play by the rules, and someone else is breaking the rules. So what can you do? You have to rely on the law and on the willingness for the state to intervene in anti-competitive situations. And so I think it made me much more appreciative of how



know how it works — or what it can do'

TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER RICHARD POHLE



entrepreneurs "unemployables" but the government felt differently about him

important the state is in shaping the technology sector." He once called experienced entrepreneurs "unemployables", but the government obviously felt differently about him. One person familiar with his hiring said: "There are very few people in the UK who have been thinking about the topic of AI safety as long as Ian and have built the same depth of network as him. I think it's pretty rare in these sorts of appointments for someone to actually have a radical vision of what they want to do."

It is the role of the state in technology that is a constant through his vision of regulating AI. He thinks governments should have greater oversight of the most powerful AI systems given that even the developers are not completely sure how they work. It's a situation that has shocked him and many others. "The people building these systems are explicitly on record as saying they do not understand how they work. And they can't say what they're capable of doing. That just seems quite disquieting when we are racing to deploy these systems so quickly."

One of the key issues before the AI safety conference is whether China will be invited. This week Hogarth's co-author of the State of AI Report, Nathan Benaich, a venture capitalist, argued that Beijing should be snubbed because of its track record in subverting international institutions. "I don't think that Nathan is an expert on national security. And I think that on these very complex topics, we should be listening to people like Anne Keast-Butler and Matt Collins [deputy national security adviser], not venture capitalists," Hogarth snaps back.

It seems a fudge is under way to invite China to parts of the summit. "I just think it's a very nuanced, complex challenge and I think trying to make it black or white isn't helpful. We co-ordinated a lot with China around major challenges in the past and there are also major areas where it's complex to co-ordinate with China. So it's just nuanced."

There will be other elephants in the room at Bletchley Park. One of them is a schism between the major AI companies. Many, like OpenAI, Google, Microsoft and Anthropic, believe the technology should be kept under wraps. Meta, however, is releasing powerful AI software "open source", so it can be adapted by anyone, even bad actors.

Hogarth is clearly worried about the path that Mark Zuckerberg's company is taking. "When you're dealing with very consequential technologies, there's a degree of precaution you have to take. We don't open source how to do certain forms of biological engineering, we don't open source aspects of nuclear security and safety. The further this stuff comes to present a national security risk, I think, the more careful you have to be."

He is also concerned that the present AI image generators have been co-opted by paedophiles to create child abuse images. Hogarth wants governments to have oversight when a company like OpenAI or Google does a "training run", or in other words uses huge amounts of computer power and data to further develop AI. "These are consequential projects. And I think transparency to the state and national security community is really critical."

That means working closely with big tech, which has led critics to warn about "regulatory capture" — where companies end up setting their own rules. Hogarth admits this is a delicate dance. "It's a complicated relationship, because these are private sector actors with a profit motive that are large corporations that need accountability from government. At the same time, these actors are also, in some cases, working very hard to help support government in getting to a place where it can successfully navigate the risks."

Seven of the largest companies have signed a voluntary agreement with the White House on greater transparency and external testing. But will they walk the walk when it comes to any new rules agreed at the conference? "That's going to be the acid test for the next six months. To what extent are people willing to embrace higher standards around managing risk? If I was running a technology company, and I committed to the president that I was going to do something voluntarily, I wouldn't wriggle out of it."

A successful conference, in his eyes, is one that "significantly accelerates state capacity … So that the government is kind of able to set the rules of the road, but in a way that is very thoughtful, nuanced, and manages significant downside risks, while protecting the upside of this technology."

"Nuanced" appears to be Hogarth's favourite word. A thoughtful man, he pauses long before answering and seems burdened by his new role. "I think it's daunting in some ways, just because of the scale of the challenge. I've not worked in government before coming into this role. So it's a big challenge in an area where I've not worked previously. But at the same time, it's been really energising, because I've always really looked up to people who tend to do public service.

"I remember during the Covid pandemic how grateful I was for Kate Bingham and the vaccine taskforce. And I remember getting those jabs and just feeling this great sense of gratitude. And so when I heard about this task force that was kind of the emotion that it triggered in me. A desire to do my bit. So it's daunting, but it feels really important."

Ian Hogarth

Curriculum vitae

Family Married to Michelle You, founder of Supercritical, a business helping tech firms to achieve net zero. They have a son, aged five

Education Dulwich College, London, Cambridge University and Tsinghua University, China

Career Consultant at Bain, founder of Songkick, and Plural, a £216 million venture fund with Taavet Hinrikus, the co-founder of Wise; Visiting Professor of Practice at the UCL Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose (IIPP)

Quick fire

London or San Francisco? London

Musk or Zuckerberg? Neither

Chatbot or robot? Robot

Drum'n'bass or hip-hop? Amapiano

Apple or Android? Apple

Doomer or optimist? Sunny side up!

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Critics 'paid off to boost rotten film's online rating'

Alex Farber Media Correspondent

Shakespeare warns his audience in the first act of *Hamlet* that "something is rotten in the state of Denmark".

Those watching the feminist film adaptation *Ophelia* might call for a similar disclaimer after accusations that publicists gamed the Rotten Tomatoes ratings site over the production.

It has been reported that over four months from October 2018 the promotions company Bunker 15 paid several critics $50 to consider reviewing the film in a positive light after it was languishing on a "rotten" sub-60 per cent score on the site.

A Bunker 15 staff member emailed a reviewer with the suggestion that the film would "benefit from more input from different critics" after it failed to excite audiences at its premiere at the Sundance film festival earlier that year.

"The feeling is that it's been treated a bit harshly by some critics," the staff member wrote. "I'm sure sky-high expectations were the culprit." The



Daisy Ridley was a "shaky presence" in the film Ophelia

exchange was published in Vulture, the US culture website. The request continued that reviewers were free to write what they wished but if they hated the film they could bury their review. The publicity agent added: "[Publishing it] on a smaller blog that Rotten Tomatoes never sees … is a very cool thing to do."

The tactic appeared to reap results. *Ophelia*, directed by Claire McCarthy and starring Daisy Ridley, the English actress, in the title role with Naomi Watts and Clive Owen, leapt from a 46 per cent rating to a 62 per cent "fresh" tomato score, after eight reviews were added to its initial crop of 13.

In February 2019 the film, which had previously been screened only at festivals, was picked up by IFC Films to be widely distributed into cinemas across America. US critics from Hollywood publications were outraged at the suggestion of underhand tactics.

Richard Lawson, the chief critic at Vanity Fair, asked: "Why am I wasting time trying to say something coherent or interesting about movies I see?"

Mike Ryan, senior entertainment writer at Uproxx, the popular culture website, said: "Truly depressing stuff."

Daniel Harlow, the founder of Bunker 15, said the company had thousands of writers on its distribution list. "A small handful have set up a specific system where filmmakers can sponsor or pay to have them review a film," he added.

Rotten Tomatoes, which prohibits financial incentives for reviews, has wiped the film's ranking score.

Mark Borkowski, the British PR agent, said the scandal had echoes of the fake reviews that have proliferated on Amazon. They led the company last year to take legal action against five brokers who were encouraging almost 350,000 people to write misleading reviews. Borkowski said the practice was damaging to the credibility of the film industry.

"The idea of being paid to write a positive review is anathema to a serious critic," he added. "Film publicity has become increasingly commoditised as the money has fallen out of it. It shines a light on a system which is becoming fairly corrupt."

Borkowski said it demonstrated the unhealthy power sites such as Rotten Tomatoes had in influencing business decisions. "Hollywood had a backlash against publicists wielding too much power and being able to blacklist journalists from interviews but the one thing it needs is transparency," he added. "It now seems we are in a race to the bottom in terms of trust."

Despite its distribution deal, *Ophelia* generated only $357,000 at the box office globally. It got a two-star review from Kevin Maher, the Times film critic. He said Ridley, who appeared as Rey in a trilogy of Star Wars sequels, cut a "shaky and only fitfully effective screen presence". He wrote that *Ophelia* was a "scattershot screenplay".



Leather dresses and trench coats stormed the catwalk at Stuart Vevers's celebration of ten years at Coach — which was briefly interrupted by anti-leather protesters

How UK designer fell for leather

At the New York Public Library on Thursday night, it wasn't just the books that were bound in leather (Harriet Walker writes). The British designer Stuart Vevers dressed models head-to-toe in trenchcoats, oversized blazers and even slip dresses made of the stuff at a lavish event in celebration of his tenth year at the American handbag label Coach.

Vevers, 49, is known as the accessories guru who put the British brand Mulberry on the map in the mid-Noughties. He has worked similar It-bag magic at Coach over the past decade.

"There are so many moments I am proud of," he said. "From introducing the catwalk shows, to all the progress we've made in sustainability and inclusion. We challenged the rules of traditional luxury."

That came through in the greatest-hits feel of this spring 2024 collection: stompy biker boots, dangling dinosaur earrings, abundant fringing and the brand's bestselling Tabby shoulder bags updated in pastel pink and zingy lime. A new bowling bag shape looks to be next season's must-have. Models carried Instagram-friendly miniature bags in tandem with commuter-friendly leather bucket totes in classic tan.

There were personal touches too from this Doncaster-born Englishman in New York. Lace and cobweb knit dresses recalled his youthful clubbing days in the Big Apple, while athletic sweats were printed, varsity-style, with the legend "Donohue's Steak House", his favourite old-timer restaurant on Manhattan's Lexington Avenue.

In response to the recent debate in the industry around body shapes on catwalks, Vevers's show reflected a broad church in its casting of plus-size models. You can't please everybody though: the show was briefly disrupted when an anti-leather protester wielding a placard managed to take a turn on the runway, camouflaged amid the deliberately punkish styling of Vevers's offerings.



"This collection was a tribute to today's generation and the way they are writing their own story," he said afterwards. "I'm proud to have created a fashion world these past ten years at Coach where all are free to express themselves."

Children's television in crisis as Bafta abolishes awards ceremony

Alex Farber Media Correspondent

Bafta has scrapped its dedicated children's awards after 26 years amid dwindling popularity, as industry bosses prepare to hold a crisis meeting over the state of youth television.

The winners of last year's children's Baftas included the film adaptation of *The Snail and the Whale*; *Bluey,* an Australian animation, and Sky's news special *FYI: Ukraine Invasion*.

Organisers blamed the cancellation on a decline in entries and votes for the bespoke children's event. They will include more children's categories in their main television and film awards.

Bafta will also extend its year-round support for children's television. It has appointed Andrew Miller, the government's first disability champion for arts and culture, to its board.

The decision to axe the children's awards caused disquiet among producers, who fear it will further erode the profile of the sector.

Kate O'Connor, the executive chairwoman of Animation UK, said: "A dedicated event is important for the sector and audiences.

"This is a hugely important time for the kids' content sector overall with decreased funding and changing viewing habits. Putting the spotlight on high quality kids' content is important."

Oli Hyatt, the managing director of Blue Zoo, which is behind *Alphablocks* and *Numberblocks* on CBeebies, warned that the change was a "backward step".

"The move to shut down these awards risks devaluing this genre, discouraging talent and sending the wrong message about the significance of quality content for children," he said. "Our industry will become less visible just when we need to be seen."

Another executive said it was a "nail in the coffin" as they raised worries about funding. They fear that producers will be less able to secure investment generated by a Bafta nomination.

On Tuesday, executives in children's programming will meet in the BBC's Television Centre to discuss how to revive the sector. According to Ofcom, original programming for children on the public service broadcaster fell to a low of 518 hours last year. Investment was also down, from £110 million ten years ago to £80 million.

Patricia Hidalgo, the BBC director of children's and education, will meet Magnus Brooke, ITV's group director of strategy, policy and regulation, Lucy Murphy from Sky and industry bodies including Animation UK and Pact, the producer's association. The event will be chaired by Emma Scott, chairwoman of World Book Day.

The meeting has been convened by the Children's Media Foundation whose director, Greg Childs, said action was required. He said: "The longer-term risk is the continued migration of audiences from regulated television to the streamers, YouTube and TikTok. There will be a generation of children without any understanding of public service media."

World

Modi the miracle maker accused of turning India into a Big Brother state

Behind the pageantry of the G20 a darker reality is being obscured, writes **Catherine Philp**



Down a potholed road, 50 miles from the freshly swept, newly plant-lined boulevards of Delhi, a single poster of Narendra Modi looms above the ruins of bulldozed shops and houses, proclaiming: "One Earth, One Family, One Future."

It is a far cry from the pageantry engulfing the capital as it hosts the G20, where pictures of Modi plaster every surface, unsightly slums are veiled with green curtains and police guard the thousands of potted plants deployed to prettify world leaders' journeys.

But it was here in Nuh where the latest bout of deadly religious violence flared in the weeks leading up to the summit, exposing an ugly side of Modi's India that he would rather keep hidden.

On July 31 Hindu nationalists led a march through the district they call "little Pakistan" for its Muslim population, taunting its inhabitants. They responded with a shower of stones and the clashes quickly descended into violent riots, with two police officers and three marchers killed.

Within hours the unrest had spread to Gurgaon, the gleaming tech start-up suburb of Delhi, home to multinational companies such as Google and Expedia, and the location for this week's preliminary G20 meetings. A mob gathered around Hindu nationalist leaders calling for Muslim blood before marching to one of Gurgaon's two mosques to set it alight. The young imam who had stayed to guard the premises was shot and stabbed to death.

In the following days Muslim villagers in Nuh stood by helplessly as their homes and shops were bulldozed by the authorities in an apparent act of collective punishment. Hundreds of Muslim residents of Gurgaon, many drawn there as migrant workers by its building boom, heeded the warnings of the nationalist mob to get out, quickly packing their belongings and fleeing.

"I left with my brother's body," said Shadab Anwar, 26, now back in his home state of Bihar. His brother was the 22-year-old imam, Mohammed Saad. "The police stood by as he was killed," Anwar said. "I don't feel safe in Gurgaon anymore."

As India geared up for its moment on the world stage such scenes only underlined the contradictions in the decade of Modi's rule. From banners celebrating the G20, Modi hails India, with questionable historiography, as "the mother of democracy" even as warnings grow louder about the decline of its democratic institutions. He speaks of "one family, one future", but his brand of Hindu nationalism has deepened India's fault lines, marginalising minorities, including Muslims and Christians, as he seeks to transform the once-secular state into a Hindu nation.

VINAY GUPTA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



Critics blame Narendra Modi's nationalist agenda for the latest sectarian violence

At the same time, however, he has pioneered economic transformation, including a digital payment system that has all but eliminated low-level corruption among government officials.

Diplomatically, too, India has never enjoyed such a prominent position, wooed by all sides in a world riven by the great power competition between the United States and China, while resisting the pressure to pick a side that could limit its ambitions.

Last month India achieved a historic first with a soft landing in the south polar region of the moon, prompting a national celebration. "The biggest thing Modi has given Indians is pride in India," Puru, an entrepreneur in Delhi, said. "That wasn't there before."

Not everyone agrees. Gurcharan Das, a leading commentator and the author of *India Unbound*, sees insecurity in Modi's insistence on Indian greatness and the wall-to-wall images of him across country. "It's showing off," he said. "Secure leaders, secure countries, don't need to show off."

But the elevation of a chaiwallah, or tea seller, to prime minister serves as a powerful inspiration to the common man, Das noted. "Modi has brought dignity to those lower classes. He is one of them, not the patronising elite" — a reference to the English-speaking Nehru dynasty that dominated post-independence politics.

For decades, national politics happened above the heads of the people, conducted in English, spoken by only 15 per cent of the population. "Imagine feeling deaf in your own country after 75 years of independence," Das said.

Modi's populist touch, however, has a darker side, in his promotion of Hindutva, the nationalist creed that seeks to recast secular India as a Hindu nation and Muslims as the enemy. In the week that violence rocked Nuh and Gurgaon, a police officer shot dead three Muslims on a train and ordered another passenger to film a speech demanding that if anyone wanted to live in India they must vote for Modi.

While India has witnessed communal bloodletting before, it was at least condemned by the authorities. Under Modi, they have been accused of standing by as violence happens, while Modi himself stays silent. When Anwar spoke to his imam brother before he was killed, Saad assured him that he was safe because police were surrounding the mosque. Minutes later, the mob descended unimpeded.

In Nuh, Muslims who took no part in the violence were stunned when their homes and shops were bulldozed by the authorities in retaliation for the deaths of two police officers and three Hindu marchers. "We had no warning," said Mohammed Sharif, 52, who owned several shops at the junction where the Hindu marchers shouted anti-Islam slogans before the Muslim crowd began throwing stones.

Hundreds of young Muslim men have been arrested without charge and remain in detention. Such marches, or yatras, never took place in this predominantly Muslim area until three years ago. This one was considered particularly inflammatory, trailed on social media by local Hindu nationalist leaders including Monu Manesar, a suspect in the burning alive of two young Muslim men in an act of "cow vigilantism", the targeting of non-Hindus accused of cow slaughter.

Another Hindu nationalist leader, Bittu Bajrangi, taunted local Muslims to "get your garlands ready, your brother-in-law is coming" — regarded as a thinly veiled threat of rape. "We used to live very peacefully with the Hindus here before," Sharif said. "It is politics that has broken our peace. My heart is like stone now."

In the migrant shanties that grew up in the shadows of Gurgaon's glass towers, only a handful of Muslim families who fled have returned home. The burnt-out mosque where the young imam was murdered has been cloaked in the same awnings used to obscure Delhi slums from the eyes of world leaders attending the G20 this weekend. It was one of only two mosques in Gurgaon where local Hindu nationalist groups have mounted a campaign against Islamic places of prayer.

Arun Panchal, the district president of another Hindu nationalist group, Hindu Sena, conceded that the killing of the imam was wrong but was unapologetic in his view about what he called "the Muslim threat".

He accused Muslims of overbreeding, seeking to convert Hindu children, luring girls away in a "love jihad" and plotting terrorist acts with the connivance of Pakistan. "Muslims are not a minority — they should not be treated as one," he said of India's 200 million Muslims in a population of 1.4 billion. "We are here to protect Hindutva."

Modi was doing a good job of promoting the Hindutva creed, Panchal said, "but he can't see everything. On the ground we take care of things and he takes care of things administratively."

Das sees Modi's ideological fervour as a distraction from the vital economic reforms India still needs and which the lacklustre opposition is unlikely and unwilling to push through. Modi abandoned land and agricultural reforms in the face of mass protests from farmers; pro-business reforms to labour laws have similarly stalled.

"Modi has never tried to sell those reforms," Das noted. "He's not ideologically opposed to them, he just believes in winning elections." Were the economy to falter, the power of Hindutva would inevitably do so too, he believes.

He fears Modi's government will push the country closer and closer to what he describes as "a religious fundamentalist state, a Hindu Pakistan".

Elections scheduled for next year are Modi's to lose: his party is already looking ahead to the one after. For Modi, the G20 marks the start of campaign season, proof of India's leading position in the world and another emblem of pride to its people. The government has little shame in flaunting the G20 to its people as a prize it won in a contest, rather than by strict rotation.

"Why shouldn't G20 be used for domestic politics?" Amit Shah, the home minister, said. "If G20 has come to the country during Modi's time and it is completed with success, then Modi must get credit."

Sunak should strive for a trade agreement, leading article, page 25



Kim unveils his 'nuclear missile' sub

North Korea has launched its first "tactical nuclear attack submarine" before today's celebrations for the 75th anniversary of the nation's founding (Gavin Blair writes).

Kim Jong-un, the supreme leader, attended the ceremony on Wednesday, according to the Korean Central News Agency. Analysts, however, expressed doubts that the vessel would be capable of firing nuclear missiles.

During a speech at the launch,

The phantom

Germany
David Crossland Berlin

For the past six months, early on weekday mornings, a mystery motorist has been hurling sandwiches out of the car window while driving along the B184 through the villages of Königsborn and Heyrothsberge, near Magdeburg.

Wrapped in tin foil and variously containing liver sausage, salami and cheese, they land in gardens and on the field of a football club. They are sometimes whole, sometimes half unwrapped with a bite or two taken out.

"I have no idea why they're doing

Meloni takes on the mafia over child rapes
Page 39

Kamala Harris painted as a thin-skinned shirker
Page 40

KCNA/KNS/AFP/GETTY IMAGES





North Korea's new "tactical nuclear attack submarine" was launched on Wednesday, attended by Kim Jong-un, left. Experts have suggested that it may not be able to launch a nuclear missile

Mr Kim was quoted as saying: "The fact that the nuclear attack submarine, a symbol of invasion against our republic for decades, now symbolises our power … is truly welcomed by all our people."

Photographs of submarine No 841 — named Hero Kim Kun-ok after a North Korean naval commander — appeared to show a number of launch tubes for ballistic missiles. But an official from South Korea's joint chiefs of staff said that the tubes were modifications to an old Soviet-era design from the 1950s, and might not actually work. British experts were also sceptical. Joseph Dempsey, a researcher at the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London, said: "This is the same — albeit more extensively modified — submarine North Korea showed us in 2019. It will have some fundamental limitations and vulnerabilities."

As well as staging a series of provocative missile launches this year, North Korea has also been cultivating ties with Russia and China. There have been reports that Kim is set to meet President Putin next week to for talks on a deal to supply Russia with arms.

Kim In-ae, spokeswoman for South Korea's unification ministry, criticised the North for "squandering its scarce resources into its futile weapons development while disregarding living difficulties of its people".

sandwich flinger has Germany guessing

this," Holger Becker, chairman of the club, Union Heyrothsberge, said. He said the habit added to the workload of the club's volunteer members.

Thomas Wilk, who lives along the road in Königsborn, told Bild newspaper: "Why does he let someone make sandwiches if he doesn't want to eat them? The throwing only happens weekdays and always before 6am."

The case has raised questions about the driver's personal life and about relationships in general. Is it an act of defiance towards an overattentive spouse or parent who is getting up at dawn to make them? Do these discarded morsels herald a breakup? Or are they preventing one? Are they, in fact, a sign of affection and respect for a partner the driver does not wish to offend?

That is the theory put forward by Anke Precht, a psychologist who said it may be a case of "the missed moment". As an example, she cited a man who has just fallen in love and is served salmon by his new sweetheart. He hates fish, but says nothing so as not to disappoint her. Instead, he praises her cooking.

"This is a very classic missed moment," Precht told Bild. As a result, salmon is served every week, and the salmon-hater has to pretend to enjoy it. She said the sandwich thrower may also have missed his moment so he takes the sandwiches every morning, says thank you and chucks them. "In this situation, the only thing that helps the sandwich shooter is courage," she advised. "Buy a large bouquet of flowers, confess the truth to your partner and invite them to dinner as an apology."

It is a benevolent theory but it does not explain why the sandwiches are thrown so ostentatiously.

The driver has yet to be spotted, but he or she is taking a risk. Throwing rubbish from vehicles carries a fine of up to €400 in the state of Saxony-Anhalt.

Le Pen's niece is now a rival in hard-right clash

France
Charles Bremner Paris

Frail and fading in his suburban Paris home, Jean-Marie Le Pen, the 95-year-old patriarch of France's hard right, could not have been cheered by the family news this week.

His granddaughter Marion Maréchal has returned to frontline politics and taken up arms against the party of his daughter Marine Le Pen at the head of a rival right-wing outfit in elections for the European parliament.

Maréchal, 33, has been appointed by Éric Zemmour, the anti-immigrant polemicist whose candidacy made headlines in last year's presidential election, to lead his fledgling Reconquest party in a battle that pits her against her aunt's National Rally and the struggling conservative Republicans.

For Maréchal, the daughter of Marine Le Pen's sister Yann, it is a gamble to revive a stalled political career that opened spectacularly in 2012 when she won a parliamentary seat aged 22. Her victory for the National Front, as the Le Pen party was called at the time, made her France's youngest MP since 1791.

After two electoral failures, and a pause from politics to give birth to two daughters, Maréchal revived her credentials as the darling of the more educated hard right when she broke acrimoniously with her aunt and joined Zemmour's presidential campaign.

Zemmour's rout by Le Pen seemed to put an end to his and her ambitions, but Zemmour remained on stage and the glamorous niece bounced back with her new post this week. Invited onto the flagship TF1 television news show, she outlined her plan for leading a batch of new-style right-wing MEPs into what she hopes will be an EU-wide coalition to fight immigration and Islam.

The elections, next June, are a historic opportunity because "for the first time, we have the chance to turn the European Union, now held by the centre and the left, towards a majority of the true right," Maréchal said.

"We have the opportunity to rally right-wing voters around a great battle. This is uniting in the defence of our identity, our culture, our values, which are today threatened by the flood of immigrants and Islamisation."

Zemmour and Maréchal are sounding the alarm over the "existential threat" of a Muslim takeover of France at an annual rally this weekend of some 3,000 Reconquest supporters at Gréoux-les-Bains, in the Provence Alps.

Maréchal, who dropped the name Le Pen from her double surname in 2018 when she moved out of the National Front's shadow, said she was not interested in "the ravings" of the European Commission. However, she laid out a more EU-positive and pro-Nato line than her aunt, known for her Brussels-bashing and anti-Americanism.

She has cultivated ties to the prospering identity-based parties of Spain, Sweden and Finland, and especially to the Brothers of Italy, the populist party of Giorgia Meloni, which won power last year. Vincenzo Sofo, an MEP from Meloni's party, became her second husband in 2021.

Polls show Zemmour's party scoring only about 7 per cent of the vote in the European elections, with nearly 30 per cent going to the Rally. Le Pen is focusing on parliament and her expected fourth run for the Élysée Palace in 2027, leaving the Euro campaign to Jordan Bardella, her 27-year-old protegé.

Maréchal is counting on her stylish media appeal to make a big dent in the Rally's vote and forge a new conservative force in France at the expense of the Republicans. She wants the Reconquest MEPs to join the European Conservatives and Reformists in the Strasbourg parliament, the Eurosceptic group formed at the behest of David Cameron in 2009.



Marine Le Pen's National Rally faces a new challenge from Marion Maréchal, below

The Zemmour and Le Pen clans feel they are on a roll after a summer that opened with five days of the worst ethnic minority youth riots since 2005, then saw President Macron impose a ban on girls wearing the Muslim abaya, a body-draping dress, in state schools.

"I'm the mummy of two girls. The prospect of them growing up in a country where the hijab and the abaya have become daily issues, a country of riots and rape by migrants, makes me despair," Maréchal tweeted before the weekend gathering. "That's why I'm a candidate. For my daughters and my country."

Maréchal said she had learnt from her election failures. "I had five years of flawless ascent but you can't be a hardened politician if you haven't had failures and trials," she told Le Monde.



She is also trying to play down the conflict in the dysfunctional Le Pen dynasty, which began when Marine fell out with her father and expelled him from the party nearly a decade ago. Le Pen called it a cruel betrayal when Maréchal joined Zemmour, but the two women have moved on as they join the clan in overseeing the much-diminished patriarch.

"We are a family that pardons," Le Pen said recently.

World

Chinese star sings war song in Mariupol's bombed theatre

Ukraine
Tom Parfitt, Richard Spencer

A popular Chinese singer has prompted anger by performing a Russian wartime song in the ruins of the Mariupol theatre in Ukraine, where hundreds of civilians were killed in an airstrike by Moscow.

Wang Fang, 38, can be seen in a video singing *Katyusha*, a song that became associated with the Soviet Katyusha rocket launcher during the Second World War.

Wang is an established star and is married to Zhou Xiaoping, a Chinese ultra-nationalist anti-American writer and blogger who has been lauded by President Xi. This week she was a member of a Chinese delegation that visited Russian-occupied eastern Ukraine as Moscow sought to show off reconstruction projects.



Wang Fang sang a Russian song in the theatre where up to 600 civilians died

The attack on the Donetsk Academic Regional Drama Theatre in Mariupol in March last year caused international outrage and became a symbol of Russia's ruthlessness against Ukrainian civilians.

Locals were using the building as an air-raid shelter at the time of the strike. The word "children" in Russian had been written in large letters outside the theatre, in an attempt to deter Russian bombers from attacking it.

Up to 600 people are thought to have died in the airstrike.

"The performance of the Chinese opera singer Wang Fang of the song *Katyusha* in the ruins of the drama theatre in Mariupol, in which the Russian army killed more than 600 innocent people, is an example of complete moral degradation," Oleg Nikolenko, a spokesman for Ukraine's foreign ministry, wrote on Facebook.

Nikolenko said the Chinese delegation's visit to occupied Ukraine was illegal and he demanded an explanation from Beijing.

Russian state media described the Chinese delegation as bloggers who visited Donetsk and Crimea.

One of the delegates told reporters in Simferopol, Crimea, that during the group's visit to Mariupol they had seen the pain and destruction caused to the city by war. But he praised Russia, saying: "Construction is going on, schools and housing are being built, the drama theatre is being restored."

Russia and the rebel authorities were "putting huge effort and resources into Mariupol's rebirth", he added.

The airstrike on the theatre took place as Russian forces besieged Mariupol, a port on the Sea of Azov, in the early phase of the war. They took control of the city in May last year. Video at the time showed that swathes of the city had been razed by Russian bombing. Human Rights Watch said the Russian assault on the port "relied on attacks and tactics that resulted in indiscriminate and disproportionate civilian suffering and loss of life".

Katyusha is a 1938 song about a Russian woman who pines for her soldier husband, away at the front. Red Army troops adopted the name for BM-13 multiple-rocket launchers. The song was one of several Russian ballads that were translated into Mandarin at the height of Soviet-Chinese Communist harmony in the era of Stalin and Mao.

China has been caught in a bind by the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Xi has spent much of the past decade forging an anti-American strategic alliance with President Putin but the invasion crossed a Chinese geopolitical "red line" that lays great stress on UN-recognised national sovereignty because of its own attitudes towards Taiwan, Tibet, Xinjiang and Hong Kong.

He has refused to condemn Putin and offered up his own "peace proposals", which are being considered by President Zelensky of Ukraine.

SPLASH NEWS



Green siren **Rita Ora, the singer, chose an eye-catching outfit from Nina Ricci and Sergio Rossi for a stroll around Venice during the Italian city's annual film festival**

Hong Kong hit by worst flash floods in 140 years

China
Gavin Blair Tokyo
Richard Spencer China Correspondent

Hong Kong has been hit by its worst flash flooding since records began, which killed at least two people as steep roads became streaming torrents.

More than 6in (152mm) of rain fell at the Hong Kong Observatory in just an hour early yesterday. Almost 8in fell in other parts of the territory, the heaviest rainfall since records began in 1884.

The observatory said more than 2ft of rain had fallen since Typhoon Haikui hit southeast China on Tuesday, about a quarter of the territory's annual precipitation. Two people were found after being swept into Victoria Harbour, one already dead while the other died later in hospital.

Videos on social media showed people stranded in vehicles as water cascaded into shopping centres and underground stations. One line of the public transport network was not operating yesterday and others were delayed. Many of the territory's low-slung red taxis could be seen struggling through the floodwater.

The rains were blamed on Haikui, which hit the province of Fujian earlier in the week. Surrounding areas of the mainland, including Shenzhen, which has a population of more than 17 million, were also badly affected.

The city, which is at the centre of China's technology industries, logged rainfall of 18.4in, also the heaviest on record. Schools were shuttered as flights and trains were cancelled.

Meizhou, in southeastern Guangdong province, was reported to have been evacuated of 11,000 people. Flood warnings were issued in Beijing, where heavy rains are forecast until today.

Officials in Hong Kong were criticised for making fewer preparations than for Typhoon Saola last weekend, when work was suspended across the city. Eric Chan, the city's chief secretary, said the "once-in-500-years" rainstorm had been "so big and so sudden" that it was difficult to predict.

"The predictability of the rainfall cannot be compared with that of a typhoon," he added. "We also want to accurately get hold of the situation but it is very hard for us to do so and so we cannot inform residents earlier."

Schools, businesses and shops were closed yesterday and the Hong Kong Stock Exchange did not open for trading. A "black" rainstorm warning, the highest level, was expected to stay in place until late last night.

King Felipe's 'new racing yacht' has the wind taken out of its sails

Spain
Isambard Wilkinson Madrid

The Spanish royal family's passion for sailing is renowned. King Felipe took part in a Mallorca regatta this summer as his estranged father, the disgraced Juan Carlos, raced in another competition hundreds of miles away off Galicia.

But the king's most cherished hobby is now at the centre of a row after the purchase of a €1.8 million yacht for the Spanish navy was cancelled by the government following a claim that it was intended for the monarch's private use.

The cancellation of the training yacht has caused outrage in the navy and on the political right. The claim was made by the Basque Nationalist Party (PNV) and comes as the caretaker government of Pedro Sánchez seeks to renew the PNV's support to retain power after an inconclusive general election in July.



The yacht was intended to replace the Aifos, a 52ft Transpac-class vessel used for competitions, which the king, right, sails as part of its crew in an annual regatta at Palma, Mallorca. It has been in naval service for 18 years.

The new yacht was ordered, according to the official report, because repairs of the Aifos were increasingly costly and the pressure of racing on its hull "highly dangerous" owing to its age.

The approval of the tender to acquire an ORC50 racing boat was published last month, with a maximum budget of €1,815,000. However, the defence ministry cancelled the tender three hours after the PNV announced that it had sent a written question to parliament asking "if the government considers that public money should be used to finance a private activity of the head of state".

The PNV — a key ally of Sánchez as he tries to cobble together support for a possible investiture vote — said that it wanted to know if "the navy was investing €1.8 million for a racing yacht for Felipe VI". So far the government has given only unspecified "technical" reasons for its decision.

The move has "caused stupefaction and discontent in the Spanish navy, where the acquisition of a new flagship … is an old demand", according to El Mundo, a centre-right newspaper. "The racing flotilla has always given great prestige to the navy and Spain."

ABC, a conservative newspaper, accused Margarita Robles, the defence minister, of "very poorly" interpreting the PNV's question. It reported that the navy was looking to buy a secondhand ORC vessel, which it said usually cost €3 million when new. "It must be clarified to the PNV and the minister, due to the ignorance of both, that all the sailing boats of the Spanish navy come under the Naval Racing Commission and are used for the education and training of the crews, which are always naval personnel," it stated.

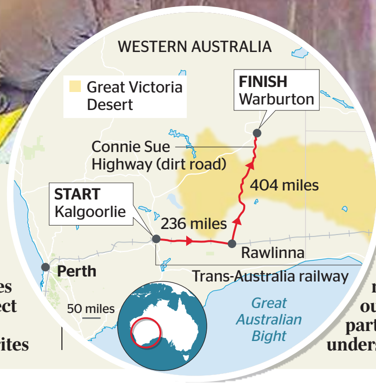
The online newspaper El Debate reported that the purchase had already been negotiated for €1.7 million.

Sánchez is facing criticism over deals he must strike with separatists to regain power, including demands for an amnesty for those behind the 2017 failed attempt to win Catalan independence.



SARAH MARQUIS/INSTAGRAM





Solo adventurer treks for three months across the outback

For almost 30 years the Swiss explorer Sarah Marquis has pursued silence — walking thousands of miles, mostly alone, across the emptiness of the Australian outback (Bernard Lagan writes).

Marquis, 51, has come back time and again from her tiny chalet in the Swiss Alps. She has trekked, she estimates, more than 15,500 miles across its vast deserts, the forests of Tasmania and the ancient stone country of the northwest. On her latest journey she completed a gruelling three-month solo trek over hundreds of miles that traversed Western Australia's Great Victoria Desert, where she did not speak to a soul for six weeks.

Pushing a cart loaded with 60kg of food and water and carrying a 22kg backpack, Marquis began from the gold-mining centre of Kalgoorlie. She walked 236 miles east along a railway line to the hamlet of Rawlinna and then 404 miles north to the tiny Aboriginal community of Warburton. "The Great Victoria Desert is really the remotest one," she told The Times from Adelaide yesterday. "There are not many places on this planet where you get the luxury to listen to silence."

She revelled in the solitude but worried about finding water. "But you have to let go of control … and just trust the universe a little bit," she said. "The only solution to understand the planet and ourselves is really to reconnect with nature."

Marquis, who writes about her travels, did not feel vulnerable, she said: "I'm not a woman out there, I'm part of nature. I understand the land."

Sarah Marquis crossed the Great Victoria Desert with just a backpack and a handcart loaded with food and water. She said farewell to human company for six weeks

Meloni takes on mafia over child rapes

Italy

Tom Kington Caivano

When two girls aged 10 and 11 were gang-raped this summer in a small town near Naples, Italy was shocked. When it emerged some of the ten suspects were as young as the victims, the country realised it had a serious problem among its youth.

Giorgia Meloni responded quickly with a visit to Caivano, where mafia recruits as young as 16 earn big money dealing drugs, sending in 400 police to raid the drug dens. On Thursday her government pushed through a new law to make jailing teenage criminals easier, and to punish parents who let their children skip school.

"Juvenile crime is spreading like an oil stain," she said. "We need to guarantee compulsory schooling and stop minors going around armed."



Bruno Mazza, a former teenage criminal, runs a youth association in Parco Verde

The move, which played on the prime minister's image as a guardian of the family and stickler for law and order, coincided with a second teenage rape in Palermo and the fatal shooting of a man in Naples by a 17-year-old during a row over a parking space.

In a country famous for indulging children, Meloni's rules heralded a shift to tougher treatment. But locals in the Parco Verde neighbourhood of Caivano said that jailing children would not solve the area's problems as long as adults, from mob bosses and paedophiles to inept public officials, were stealing their futures.

"Why are there just two social workers in this town even though 40 kids have died thanks to crime and drugs in recent decades?" said Bruno Mazza, who runs a youth association at the heart of Parco Verde, a cluster of crumbling council blocks housing 5,000 people on the outskirts of the town.

Mazza, 42, knows a thing or two about juvenile crime in Parco Verde, which was built to house Neapolitans made homeless by an earthquake in 1980. After arriving with his family when he was six, Mazza fell in with bad company after his father's suicide. He was robbing, stealing, fighting gun battles with police and dealing drugs for a local mafia boss before spending years in jail.

"I returned to Parco Verde, saw kids going down the same path I had and decided to act," said Mazza, who now campaigns to create sporting facilities.

Meloni has promised millions of euros to rebuild an abandoned swimming pool where the two girls were raped, but residents said that would not end the dangerous isolation of Parco Verde, which has few shops and no bus connection to Naples. "We are trapped here, closed in physically and mentally," said Vincenzo Puzone, 19.

To the Camorra mafia in Naples, Parco Verde's poverty and isolation made it a perfect fortress in which to set up a drug dealing operation a decade ago, when it was being pushed out of neighbourhoods such as Scampia by police raids. Soon it was running about 20 drug sales points, employing 400 dealers and lookouts, many very young.

"During the lockdown bosses sent food parcels to residents, who take their disputes with neighbours to the bosses to resolve, helping create a strong sense of omerta in the area," said Andrea Coratza, the chief local investigator.

Coratza pointed to ground-floor flats where dealers had installed armoured-glass doors and CCTV systems to keep police out. He said that drugs had been found hidden in statues of Padre Pio, one of Italy's most popular saints. In one block a mafia boss built a hidden compartment in a basement for his Kalashnikovs and bulletproof vests.

Another boss made €12 million from five years of drug dealing.

Hundreds of arrests in recent months have left a power vacuum, meaning the raid ordered by Meloni was mostly about grabbing headlines. But the knee-capping of a local man this week suggests new bosses are now battling over the turf.

Children grow up fast in Parco Verde, with 16-year-olds becoming family breadwinners thanks to drugs.

News of the rapes came as no surprise to Francesco Greco, a magistrate who exposed a web of child abuse when he investigated the fate of Fortuna Loffredo, six, who fell to her death from the top of a council block in 2014.

Raimondo Caputo, a neighbour, was jailed for life for murder and sexual abuse after throwing Fortuna from the eighth floor. He was absolved in relation to the death of his partner's son, four, who fell from the building in 2013.

Faced with a wall of silence from residents while investigating Fortuna's death, Greco and his team installed microphones in flats in the building, only to stumble on other cases of abuse.

Today, the doors of some flats have been bricked up by police to stop drug dealers using them as bases. Last year, one resident was accused of murdering a rival in a mafia-related drug row.

"During the investigation into Fortuna's death we understood her murder was part of a context of absolute illegality and social degradation, and it's clear these recent rapes are part of the same loss of positive values," said Greco. "It's about the social context. That is where we need to pay more attention."

CESARE ABBATE/ANSA/SHUTTERSTOCK; TOM KINGTON FOR THE TIMES



Giorgia Meloni has pushed through a law to make jailing teenage criminals easier

PM backs partner's 'advice'

Giorgia Meloni has defended her partner from accusations that he believes women's excessive drinking can lead to rape. Andrea Giambruno, a TV journalist, was criticised last month when he discussed a series of gang rapes this summer. "If you avoid getting drunk … you might avoid certain problems," he said, prompting claims that he was blaming rape victims.

Meloni said his words had been twisted. "This is advice many parents would give their children," she added. "I don't find this to be a justification to rape a girl."

VATICAN MEDIA/CATHOLIC PRESS/IPA/SPLASH NEWS



Fighting talk The Pope receiving Sylvester Stallone, the Rocky and Rambo actor and screenwriter aged 77, at the Vatican. Stallone took his wife, daughters and brother

Kamala Harris painted as shirker who has 'rabbit ears' for criticism

United States
David Charter Washington

Kamala Harris is to become the face of Democratic attempts to reach young voters, despite claims in a new book that she ducked tough assignments and is thin-skinned, with "rabbit ears for criticism".

The vice-president is hoping to reshape her image with a visit to Indonesia to meet Asian leaders this week, and a plan unveiled by her office to hold a series of rallies at universities in mainly swing states.

The urgency of her campus mission has been underlined by polling this week suggesting two thirds of younger voters believe President Biden, 80, does not "inspire confidence" and does not have "the stamina and sharpness to serve effectively" for a second term.

Harris fares no better in the polls: both have a low favourability rating of 40 per cent.

She is reeling from unflattering revelations in *The Last Politician*, by Franklin Foer, a study of the first two years of the Biden administration. Foer claims that she simply gave up trying to tackle illegal immigration from Central America, one of the main tasks given her by Biden.

"Harris possessed what one of her colleagues described as 'rabbit ears'," writes Foer, a journalist with The Atlantic, who said he conducted nearly 300 interviews for the book. "Whenever there was a hint of criticism of her, either in the West Wing or in the press, she seemed instantly aware of it. Rather than brushing it aside, she wanted to know who was speaking ill of her and what they were saying." Foer wrote that she "froze out" an aide she suspected of co-operating with reporters.

"She let the criticism guide her. Instead of diligently sticking to the Central America assignment, she seemed to accept the conventional wisdom about it. It was a futile gig, so she let it fall to the side, missing an opportunity to grind her way to a meaningful achievement."

Harris, a former senator and attorney-general of California, has endured an onslaught of criticism from Republicans for occasional "word salad" answers and her failure to get to grips with the influx of migrants crossing the Mexico border. In an interview this week with CBS, she said she was prepared to be president if necessary, but quickly added that concerns about Biden's frailty were misplaced.

"Joe Biden is going to be fine," she said. "I work with Joe Biden every day. The work that under Joe Biden's leadership our administration has accomplished is transformative. I think the American people, most of all, want a leader who actually gets things done."

Foer writes that weekly private lunches between Biden and Harris "began to fall off the schedule". He adds: "Biden didn't feel especially obliged to coach her along."

Biden treated Harris "with impeccable respect" but where Biden had "helped plug the gaps in [President] Obama's résumé … Biden didn't need Harris in the same way Obama needed Biden."



Kamala Harris is to woo young voters

Ron Klain, Biden's chief of staff at the time, became Harris's guide, having worked for both Al Gore and Biden in the vice-presidential role. "But he struggled to productively help her," Foer writes. "He felt Harris kept making life excessively difficult by imposing all sorts of constraints on herself. She told him that she didn't want to work on women's issues or anything to do with race. She wanted her office to be majority female and to have a black woman as chief of staff. To Klain's ear, she was creating too many rules, and they made it hard for her to find her footing."

Harris was "constantly in search of a portfolio but reluctant to accept them when they were suggested to her. She asked to be placed in charge of relations with Scandinavia — away from the spotlight." She eventually found a new role as the face of the administration on abortion rights after the Supreme Court overturned the Roe v Wade ruling that guaranteed a right to abortion in June last year.

Harris found herself stuck in Washington much of the time during the first two years because of her role as the casting vote in the evenly balanced Senate. That changed when the Democrats picked up a seat in the midterm elections, freeing her to travel much more.

Her office announced a month-long tour of universities "to mobilise young people in the ongoing fight for fundamental freedoms and rights". The tour "will focus on key issues that disproportionately impact young people across the country — from reproductive freedom and gun safety to climate action, voting rights, LGBTQ+ equality, and book bans".

In 2020 Biden won among voters aged under 30 against Donald Trump by almost two to one. However, polling this week for CNN showed concerns among younger voters, with 59 per cent of those under 45 saying they were seriously concerned that Biden's age would negatively affect his ability to understand the concerns of the next generation of Americans.

Among the under-45s, 63 per cent said that Biden does not inspire confidence, and 64 per cent said that he does not have the stamina and sharpness to serve effectively. The same number said that his policies have failed to improve the economy.

Harris's defenders in the Democratic Party say she receives excessive negative scrutiny because she is a black woman.

Ashley Allison, who worked for the Biden-Harris campaign, told CNN: "Most people don't know what vice-presidents do. And now she is a history maker. She is a woman, she is a black woman, and it's the easy thing to do to say she's the attack dog, go after her."

However, another 2020 campaign worker told The Times: "I think that Harris has political problems internally in the party. I don't think she could win the [presidential] nomination. I really believe the vice-presidency is the high-water mark for her."

Show must go on for last Hollywood star-mapper

Keiran Southern

U.S. CONFIDENTIAL HOLLYWOOD

LOS ANGELES

The bright yellow sign is a conspicuous addition to the otherwise grand environs of this stretch of Sunset Boulevard. It reads: "Hot Star Maps Here."

Holmby Hills is one of the most affluent neighbourhoods in Los Angeles and its sprawling mansions are home to several celebrities, making it the perfect place for Linda Welton to flog her wares: she is a third-generation seller of star maps, foldable souvenirs that reveal the location of famous people's houses.

Armed with Welton's charts, tourists can catch a glimpse at the present and former homes of celebrities such as Frank Sinatra, Kylie Jenner, Cher, Justin Bieber Jackie Chan and many others.

Welton has set up her makeshift kiosk on the corner of Sunset Boulevard and North Carolwood Drive, outside the house where Michael Jackson died. She is a familiar sight with her white fedora, camping chair and catchy sign.

Star maps are almost as old as the film industry itself and sellers used to be a common sight around Hollywood, hawking their products to tourists hungry for any crumb of celebrity intrigue. However, the trade has largely died off and tourists now seem to prefer guided bus tours.

She is convinced that the maps will endure, even in the digital age. "People want a handheld souvenir," Welton said. "They don't want something digital, they like things for a keepsake. And the maps are really cool, colourful and very well done with graphics."

She declines to say how old she is or even how much the maps cost, hinting that such information hands tourists an advantage when they come to haggle. She is happy to discuss her family business, however, revealing that her grandfather, a vaudeville star, was something of a pioneer of celebrity cartography in the 1930s. Her mother, Vivienne Welton, took over the family business and spent 45 years as a seller.

Welton herself has pitched in since she was 18, but with business slow at present she usually only sets up on Sunset on a weekend, spending the rest of her time as a taxi driver for disabled people.

She is a staunch defender of her trade and says that even celebrities welcome the work she does. "They don't like the paparazzi because they lie about them, but we bring them into a good light," she claims.

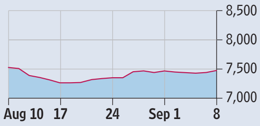
She claims that her mother sold a star map to Marilyn Monroe two weeks before her death in 1962. "I was two years old but I remember it like yesterday."

Despite the business not being what it was, Welton has no plans to yell "cut" on this Hollywood tradition. "We are not going anywhere," she said.

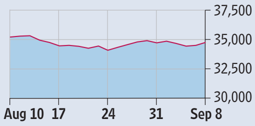
Business

WORLD MARKETS (Change on the day)

FTSE 100
7,478.19 (+36.47) ▲



Dow Jones
34,576.59 (+75.86) ▲

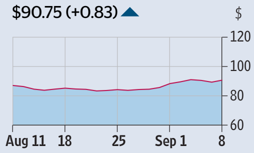


COMMODITIES

Gold
$1918.61 (-1.35) ▼



Brent crude
$90.75 (+0.83) ▲

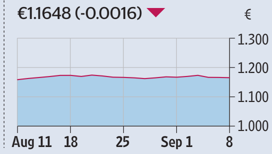


CURRENCIES

£/$
$1.2473 (-0.0012) ▼



£/€
€1.1648 (-0.0016) ▼



Apple faces losing billions in sales as China cracks down on iPhones

Callum Jones

A ban on Chinese government officials using iPhones could knock billions of dollars off Apple's sales, analysts say.

Shares in key suppliers of the US technology giant came under pressure after fresh reports of an escalating crackdown by Beijing.

China's Huawei also highlighted its resilience to sanctions imposed by Washington, amid tensions between the world's two largest economies, by launching two smartphones in a challenge Apple's dominance of the market.

Apple's market value fell by $190 billion in two days this week as investors responded to the prospect of China — which it relies upon for almost a fifth of its business, and to make many of its devices — curbing usage of the iPhone.

Restrictions on the use of iPhones by Chinese government employees are widening to regional governments and state-owned firms, Nikkei reported, citing unnamed sources including a government employee.

Shares in Apple rose 0.4 per cent, or 62 cents, to close at $178.18 in New York last night, recovering some of the losses it endured. Key companies in its supply chain struggled, however, with Largan Precision falling 4 per cent and Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co slipping 0.6 per cent in Taiwan.

Erik Woodring, an analyst at Morgan Stanley, argued that Apple's rout in recent days had been "overdone" but he outlined a "worst-case scenario" whereby the company's revenue was hit by 4 per cent and profits by 3 per cent.

"China is critical to Apple's success, but Apple is also critical to the Chinese economy," Woodring said. "While the potential for a broad decoupling between Apple and China in this multipolar world clearly exists, we don't believe recent headlines are necessarily foreshadowing this 'worst-case' scenario."

Woodring suggested that recent headlines on Huawei and China were "more bark than bite". However, he estimated that if Apple lost all the market share it had gained over Huawei in China's high-end smartphone market over the past three years it would equate to about 18 million iPhones.

Crunch time for Apple, pages 42-43

Supply of new homes 'drying up'

Scrapping targets was grave error, builder warns

Emma Powell

The boss of one of the country's largest housebuilders has said the number of homes being built each year is on course to more than halve over the next three years, as the scrapping of annual housing targets has created a culture of "saying no" within local authorities.

Rob Perrins, chief executive of Berkeley, said the impact of the rapid rise in borrowing costs in reducing demand was masking the true cause of the housing shortage. "What's going to really reduce numbers, even if there's an economic recovery, is the planning and regulatory environment," he said.

The number of homes being built was on track to fall to 100,000 a year by 2026, from 210,000 over the 12 months to the end of March, he said. A drop on that scale could cost half a million jobs.

The decision by Michael Gove, the housing secretary, to scrap annual housebuilding targets at the end of last year had created a culture of "saying no" within local authorities, Perrins said. "The culture, the assumption, was to say yes at the end of the day. The current assumption, which definitely has changed across all parties … is no. 'How can I not get planning for this scheme', instead of 'How do I make this scheme work to give planning'."

Councils were previously required to have local plans that designated land for development. After a rebellion by Tory MPs, Gove scrapped the mandatory target of 300,000 new homes a year.

"People are not going to take a risk in this environment to put in a planning application if it's not in a local plan," Perrins, 58, warned. The number of housing projects granted permission in England last year fell to the lowest level since 2006, when figures were first collected.

Berkeley built 4,043 homes last year, but reservations fell 35 per cent over the past four months as higher mortgage costs stifled demand.

Annual housing targets should be restored, the Berkeley boss said, and the planning appeals process accelerated. There also needed to be clearer policies to make brownfield development a priority. "In prime minister's question time, [Rishi Sunak] said it was a solution [but] he doesn't have any policies for brownfield first," Perrins said.

The issues are acute in London. Changes to the London Plan — development guidelines issued by the mayor and approved by the government — have limited the height of buildings, meaning 40 per cent fewer homes can be built on the same land, Perrins said. The planning system should be "design-led" rather than "formulaic", he added.

Part of the problem was that MPs in suburban constituencies, including Jeremy Hunt, the MP for South West Surrey, lacked an understanding of the practicalities around brownfield development in big cities, Perrins claimed.

"The chancellor talks about productivity and then he talks about housing being really important, but probably doesn't understand the levers for brownfield as [he was] a Farnham MP [in South West Surrey] when I saw him, and he talked about the several houses at the end of his lane."

Controls strangling construction industry, leading article, page 25

APPLE CORPS/BBC/ALAMY



US deal is Fab Four music royalty fund

Round Hill, the FTSE 250 music royalties fund which has hits from the Beatles among its catalogue, is likely to be sold after its board recommended a $468 million offer from Alchemy Copyrights of America. Page 45

Rapper's Diageo claim will go to court

Dominic Walsh

Diageo lost the first round of its legal battle with Sean "Diddy" Combs last night after a New York court denied the drinks giant's request for the case to be determined through arbitration.

The Supreme Court also denied the Guinness and Johnnie Walker maker's motion to dismiss the rapper's claim and the company has been asked to file a response within 21 days.

The two parties are in dispute over their tequila joint venture, formed in 2014 to acquire DeLeón, a premium tequila brand. The rapper had previously been a brand ambassador to the FTSE 100 group's Ciroc vodka but had wanted to have an ownership position.

Diageo announced in May it was cutting its ties with Combs, claiming he had breached their contract and had "resorted to false accusations of racism on the part of Diageo and certain of its senior executives, in particular its former chief executive Sir Ivan Menezes".

The complaint from the rapper's company, Combs Wine & Spirits, accused Diageo of falling short of its commitments for distribution, investment and brand positioning for DeLeón. It also accused the company of racial discrimination, alleging that DeLeón had been typecast as a "black brand".

If the case had been sent to arbitration, it would have been decided behind closed doors, but Judge Joel Cohen's dismissal of the motion means the case will proceed in court open to the public.

Diageo said: "While we are disappointed with today's procedural decision, it is important to underscore that this is not a ruling on the merits of the claims, which we maintain are false and baseless. We are currently considering all legal options."

John Hueston, Combs's lawyer, said: "This case has always been about getting fair and equal treatment. Today's decision is an important step in the right direction. Diageo tried to end this action. Today the judge soundly rejected that effort."

Combs, 53, who made a surprise appearance in court, said: "I'm fighting for fair and equal treatment for everyone. This isn't just about me. I look forward to continuing this fight in court. We all deserve the same 24 hours."

Need to know

1 A government auction for renewable energy projects has failed to secure bids for any new offshore wind farms, prompting concerns that households could face higher energy bills. The setback was blamed on a decision not to adjust the scheme to account for inflationary pressures. Page 2

2 Amazon and eBay are to be made liable for the sale of dangerous goods as part of a crackdown on under-regulated internet marketplaces. The government plans to give online retailers similar responsibilities to high street shops. Page 30

3 The boss of one of Britain's largest housebuilders has said the number of homes being built is on course to more than halve over the next three years, as the scrapping of annual housing targets has created a culture of "saying no" within local authorities. Page 41

4 A ban on government officials in China using iPhones could knock billions of dollars off Apple's sales, analysts said. Shares in suppliers of the US technology giant came under pressure after fresh reports of a crackdown by Beijing. Page 41

5 Petershill Partners has warned that it will earn lower than expected fees this year in the latest blow to the Goldman Sachs-backed investment vehicle since its listing on the London stock market two years ago. The group, which owns minority stakes in private equity firms and hedge funds, blamed a market slowdown.

6 A merger between the CBI and Make UK was given added urgency after reports that the business lobby group is facing a cash crunch. The CBI could be weeks away from running out of money over uncertainty about membership renewals. Talks had stalled over pension issues.

7 After three years of rows and regulatory wrangling, the competition authorities have ruled that a settlement on what Heathrow can charge airlines to take off and land is broadly right. Virgin Atlantic said that the decision by the Competition and Markets Authority had failed to protect consumers from "excessive" charges. Page 44

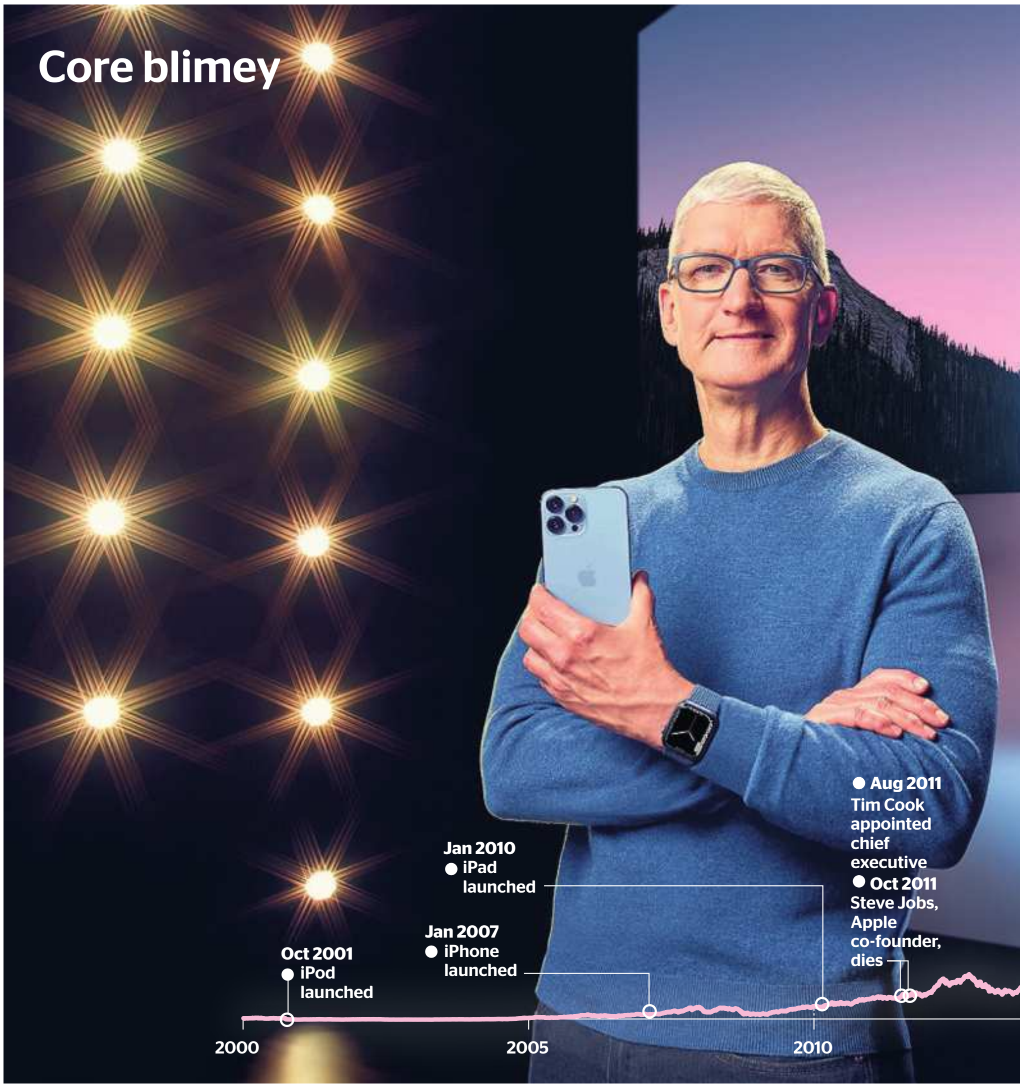
8 Sir Richard Branson's adults-only cruise brand has raised $550 million of new capital to accelerate growth plans. Virgin Voyages also said that Tom McAlpin would be retiring as chief executive and moving up to chairman. Page 44

9 Activist investors in The Restaurant Group kept up their campaign for change after the company announced the resignation of Ken Hanna as chairman. The Wagamama and Frankie & Benny's operator said that Hanna would not be seeking re-election. Page 46

10 HSBC is to halt commercial payments by business customers to and from Russia and Belarus, as lenders tighten restrictions beyond sanctions imposed after the invasion of Ukraine. Page 47

Crunch time for Apple as tech

The stakes have never been higher for Tim Cook as he prepares to unveil the latest iPhone, **Callum Jones** writes



Apple built itself into the world's largest public company by creating distinctive consumer products, then selling them hard. This strategy has yielded both astronomical success, like the musical revolution unleashed by the iPod at the turn of the century, and high-profile flops. Who remembers the Newton?

So when the US technology giant claimed in January 2007 to have "reinvented" the telephone, with a device that Steve Jobs, its co-founder and chief executive, said was nothing short of "revolutionary and magical", eyebrows were raised. Even as diehard believers queued outside its stores to get their hands on the iPhone, some went so far as to predict its failure.

The doubts were dispelled swiftly and definitively. A billion iPhones were sold in less than a decade. It became the central pillar of Apple's business, generating more than half of its sales and helping to drive a stock market rally that saw the group become the first ever $1 trillion company, the second $2 trillion company and, most recently, the first $3 trillion company.

But 16 years and 14 generations later, the iPhone's dominance — and its reliability as a source of extraordinary profits for Apple — has been called into question. When Tim Cook, Jobs' successor, walks out on stage this week at the company's annual product launch, the stakes will be high.

Total revenue at the group has fallen for three consecutive quarters, and it has braced investors for a similar performance this quarter. Another drop would amount to Apple's worst streak of sales declines in two decades.

Demand for smartphones is in sharp focus as consumers feel the pinch and the global economic outlook remains uncertain. Last month Hon Hai Precision Industry, a key manufacturer of devices including the iPhone, braced investors for most of its main business divisions to contract slightly this year.

Apple's valuation has since fallen back below $3 trillion. Ahead of its most important quarter of the year, the group will host an event taglined "wonderlust" on Tuesday at a 1,000-seat auditorium named after Jobs on its campus in Cupertino, California. New iPhone models and updates to its smartwatch are expected.

Revenue generated by the iPhone slipped 2.4 per cent to $39.67 billion in the three months to July 1, accounting for 48 per cent of Apple's overall revenue. Hardware sales struggled across the board, with iPad tablet and Mac computer revenues also lower.

While this was partly offset by the continued growth of the group's burgeoning services division, which includes its app store, TV+ and music streaming platforms, the strength of Apple's software arm is closely intertwined with that of its hardware.

The iPhone "needs a big cycle after a tepid last few quarters", Yory Wurmser, principal analyst at Insider Intelligence, said. At the heart of next week's reveal will be the new iPhone 15 line-up, including a titanium frame for the higher-end models, according to Bloomberg News, with more advanced processors and a new camera.

The most consequential change is un-

Getir needs funding push to deliver

Max Kendix

The value of one of the hottest start-ups of the pandemic has dropped to less than a quarter of what it was 18 months ago.

Getir, the Istanbul-based grocery delivery company, is in talks to raise $500 million in a new funding round led by the Abu Dhabi sovereign wealth fund, Mubadala Investment Company.

The latest funding round will value the company at $2.5 billion, after taking the new money into account, according to people familiar with the situation. It had been valued at as much as $11.8 billion when it raised funds early last year, far ahead of more established rivals such as Deliveroo and Just Eat.

Sir Michael Moritz is also backing the funding round, which is expected to be announced later this month. The Welsh-born investor recently left Sequoia Capital, the Silicon Valley venture capital company, after almost 40 years. While at Sequoia, he was one of the first backers of Getir, along with Revo Capital. The US venture capital group G Squared is also backing Getir in the financing push.

News of the funding round, first reported by the Financial Times, comes just weeks after Getir announced that it would cut 11 per cent of its workforce across the UK, Germany, the Netherlands, US and Turkey to "significantly increase operational efficiency". The company also said that it would exit Portugal, Spain, and Italy. Getir employs about 23,000 people, including couriers, pickers and office workers.

The sector boomed during the pandemic as customers demanded groceries to their door in minutes. Unlike conventional takeaway delivery apps, these services require so-called "dark stores" from which drivers source goods and deliver them at any time.

Rapid delivery e-grocers attracted about $7.6 billion in venture capital investment in 2021, dropping to about $3.6 billion last year.

As social distancing restrictions were relaxed, there was significant consolidation, with Getir proving to be among the more resilient. In December Getir acquired a key German competitor, Gorillas, in a $1.2 billion deal. It also acquired smaller competitors across Europe, taking over Blok in Spain, Frichti in France, and Weezy in the UK.

The UK-based Zapp and US-based Gopuff are among the only remaining independent ultra-fast grocery delivery companies along with Getir. In the UK, mainstream supermarkets have also entered the sector, with Tesco, Sainsbury's and Ocado launching Whoosh, Chop Chop and Zoom respectively.

The new financing round would bring the total raised by Getir since December to $2.3 billion.

Dorsey's pay system glitch hits traders

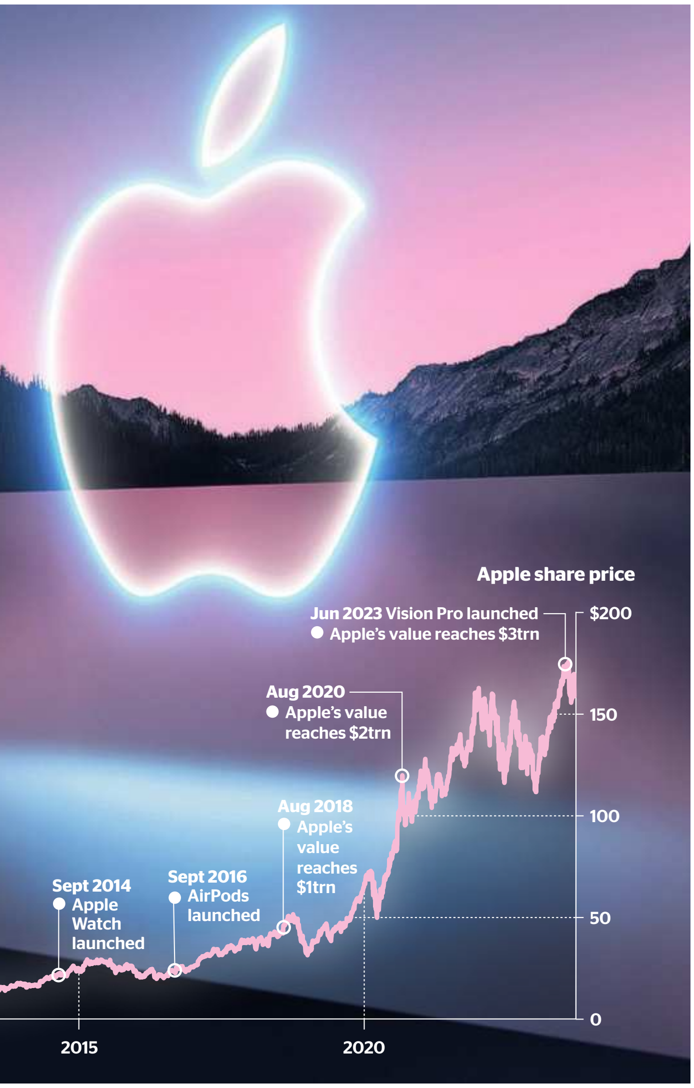
Emma Powell

The online payments company set up by the US tech entrepreneur Jack Dorsey has been hit by a service outage, causing widespread disruption to businesses across the world that have been left unable to make or receive card transactions.

Square began to experience issues with its payments platform at about 8pm UK time on Thursday, with the issue lasting just over ten hours.

Square declined to comment on the cause of the outage, only saying that the issue had been resolved. However, it added that businesses using the platform could continue to experience

titan's troubles mount



likely to be how much the device weighs, the quality of its pictures, or the design of its operating system. With a new European law requiring mobile manufacturers to introduce common charging connections by December next year, the latest iPhones are set to ditch Apple's proprietary Lightning adaptors, and instead have USB-C ports.

"Not all that long ago people would really focus on these announcements, lining up, sleeping overnight at Apple Stores to get these products in their hands," Scott Kessler, global sector lead at Third Bridge, said. "Now it seems like a lot of the details are known before the event takes place. There just isn't as much as excitement."

The iPhone launch has typically been a "sell-the-news" event for investors in years gone by, Erik Woodring, an analyst at Morgan Stanley, observed. Apple's stock typically outperforms in the preceding weeks, slightly underperforms on the day, and then "modestly" outperforms in the ensuing three to six months, he told clients.

Woodring does not anticipate the on-the-day stock reaction to be "any different" to the norm on Tuesday, but emphasised that he believes market expectations for iPhone sales are too low this year, "with the potential for both unit and [average selling price] growth".

The switch to USB-C charging could broaden its appeal, according to Kessler. "A lot of people are wondering what the impact or implications might be," he said, adding that it could turn the device into a "more obvious direct competitor to Android" phones, made by the likes of Samsung.

Speculation is rife that Apple will raise prices, particularly of its high-end models. "The challenges being seen across the broader smartphone space could incentivise Apple to get more aggressive on its more premium devices to help support revenue growth," Angelo Zino, an analyst at CFRA Research, said. "More importantly, the changes Apple is making at the high end very easily justify price increases, with the biggest possible content additions likely being the move to titanium, camera upgrades, and greater memory."

With doubts over the strength of broader demand for smartphones, however, Apple will need to tread carefully. To be "ultra-conservative," Zino said CFRA's current forecasts for iPhone sales do not assume price increases "with upside potential should we see the company make the move".

Kessler added: "Look at what Apple is doing on the high end and the low end. My sense would be that, by definition, it might have more pricing elasticity at the high end. On the low end, Apple might try to seize upon the opportunity to pick up some more market share."

The company already made its biggest product announcement in almost a decade this summer. It hailed yet another "revolutionary" device — the $3,500 Vision Pro headset, due on sale early next year — which Cook declared would mark "the beginning of a new era for computing".

Today, the iPhone remains at the core of Apple's business. But the world's biggest public company is already selling its plan for tomorrow.

Petershill slumps after warning of lower fee income

Ben Martin Banking Editor

Petershill Partners has warned it will earn lower than expected fees this year in the latest blow to the Goldman Sachs-backed investment vehicle since its listing on the London stock market two years ago.

Shares in the FTSE 250 company slumped by 25½p, or 14.5 per cent, to 150p yesterday after the group, which owns minority stakes in a series of private equity firms and hedge funds, blamed a market slowdown for cutting its guidance for the year.

It now expects to earn fees of between $190 million and $210 million, down from its previous forecast of between $220 million and $250 million.

Half-year results from Petershill fell short of expectations, with the group posting adjusted post-tax profits of $68 million, a sharp fall from $135 million a year earlier and almost a third lower than City analysts had expected.

Ali Raissi-Dehkordy and Robert Hamilton Kelly, the managing directors of the company, said it had faced a difficult economic environment in the six months to the end of June "with the slower investment backdrop delaying the activation of management fees and subdued transaction and advisory fees".

Petershill's shares now languish at less than half the 350p price when it joined the London Stock Exchange in September 2021. The poor share price performance is a setback for Goldman, the Wall Street investment bank that is one of the biggest names in finance.

Petershill was founded by Goldman's asset management division in 2007 and owns stakes in 25 managers of alternative assets, earning a portion of their fee income. These partner firms had assets under management of $300 billion at the end of June and Goldman remains Petershill's biggest shareholder at 76 per cent.

When Petershill floated, the private markets were booming as private equity and credit firms took advantage of record low interest rates to strike deals. Months after it listed, central banks started to lift interest rates to contain inflation.

In the UK, the Bank of England's base rate has climbed from 0.1 per cent in November 2021 to a 14-year high of 5.25 per cent. These higher borrowing costs have stifled deal and fundraising activity among private equity firms, weighed on wider economic growth and are putting pressure on debt-laden transactions that were struck at the top of the market in 2021 at valuations that now look too rich.

This has in turn hit Petershill by putting pressure on the fees earned by its partner firms. It said yesterday that it had cut its outlook for the year "principally to reflect the slower deployment environment impacting timing of fee activation".

It comes after Petershill warned of challenging market conditions in a first quarter trading statement in May, while its annual results for last year also bore the scars of the tumultuous backdrop.

David McCann, an analyst at Numis, a stockbroker, told clients that Petershill's latest update was disappointing and said he had put his "buy" recommendation on the shares under review.

Analysts at UBS said that the worse than expected earnings and weaker fee guidance would be "viewed negatively by investors".

Goldman job cuts loom

Bankers at Goldman Sachs are braced for further job losses as the Wall Street giant prepares to embark on its next round of annual cuts.

The bank suspended this yearly exercise during the Covid pandemic but has since resumed the culls. It cut 6.5 per cent of its headcount, or about 3,200 jobs, in January in its biggest round of cuts since 2008, spurred by difficult conditions in the investment banking market and a U-turn on its push into consumer banking. There were further, more modest job losses in the summer.

Goldman's headcount reduction exercise is based on employees' performance and usually results in the group trimming between 1 per cent and 5 per cent of its staff. The Financial Times reported yesterday that the forthcoming cuts would be towards the lower end of that range.

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delays in some money transfers until 8pm UK last night.

A spokesman said: "Our engineers have implemented a fix and our services are now starting to come back online. Once the outage has been fully investigated, we plan to publish a full review of this issue and determine what steps we can take to prevent it from happening again.

"We'll continue to update www.issquareup.com with more information as we have it."

The outage left users ranging from coffee shops to food trucks asking customers to only pay in cash, while users were also unable to access their accounts. Square is best known for its white card readers that allow merchants to accept credit or debit card payments via smartphone or tablet.

Square does not disclose its exact number of users but has said it serves "millions" of small and medium-sized businesses around the world.

Square is part of Block and is based in San Francisco. It was founded in 2009 by Dorsey, a co-founder of Twitter, and Jim McKelvey. Dorsey, 46, serves as its chairman and "block head".

Shares in Block dropped by 5.3 per cent, or $2.95, to close at $53.09 in New York in the wake of the outage, to the lowest level in almost 12 months.

In March it came under attack from the short-seller Hindenburg Research, which alleged that the company had "wildly overstated" usage of its Cash App payment service, and understated the cost of acquiring customers.

Hindenburg claimed that Block "obfuscates" how many individuals were on the platform by reporting misleading "transacting active" metrics including fake and duplicate accounts.

At the time, Block dismissed Hindenburg's 17,000-word report as "factually inaccurate and misleading", suggesting that it was designed to "deceive and confuse" shareholders, and vowed to explore legal action.

"We are a highly regulated public company with regular disclosures, and are confident in our products, reporting, compliance programmes, and controls," the company added.

CBI 'faces cash crisis' as merger stalls

Jack Barnett

A merger between the CBI and Make UK was given added urgency last night after reports that the business lobby group is facing a cash crunch.

A tie-up between two of Britain's biggest business groups has been frozen by a delay in securing insurance for an existing pension scheme, according to the Financial Times. However, the CBI could be weeks away from running out of cash over uncertainty about membership renewals, Sky News reported.

Talks between the CBI and Make UK over a consolidation have been drawn out for months and were thought to be nearing a conclusion until the pensions delay.

The CBI's scheme is in surplus, according to the business group's latest annual accounts, and is likely to have received a boost from the rise in interest rates over the past two years. Higher rates raise pension schemes' future income, which can tip them from deficit to surplus.

The CBI's reputation was damaged this year by a series of sexual misconduct cases that threw the organisation into crisis. Many companies severed ties with the self-styled "voice of business", which depleted its finances and accelerated merger talks with Make UK.

The CBI has held the ear of the government since it was created in 1965. Prime ministers courted the group's favour for decades, with Tony Blair working closely with its senior staff in the 1990s and 2000s.



Rain Newton-Smith is in discussions with Make UK

However, its influence has been diminished as a result of the scandals that forced out Tony Danker, the former director-general. Rain Newton-Smith, the CBI's former chief economist, took over leadership.

Make UK is the representative body of Britain's manufacturing industry. According to its website the group lobbies on behalf of businesses that employ three million people.

A closer partnership or tie-up has been characterised as an effort by the two groups to strengthen their influence on policy-making.

A CBI spokesman said: "The CBI and Make UK are in discussions to explore how the two parties might work closer together. These discussions are positive and constructive but remain at an initial stage."

Make UK declined to comment.

Business

All eyes on Fed after dollar races ahead

The dollar enjoyed its longest weekly winning streak in nine years as the recovery in the US economy outpaces international rivals, raising the prospect of further Federal Reserve rate rises to keep inflation in check (Jack Barnett writes).

The US dollar index, which measures the greenback against a basket of comparable currencies, rose 0.6 per cent this week, marking its eighth consecutive week of gains, a run not achieved since 2014.

Investors are growing increasingly confident that the US economy will achieve a "soft landing", in which inflation returns to the 2 per cent target without a recession, linked to a string of better than expected data.

This week the Institute for Supply Management said that its non-manufacturing purchasing managers' index rose to 54.5 last month, the highest reading since February. A reading above 50 signals expansion in the services economy, which generates more than two thirds of output.

Traders have also been pricing in a greater chance of the Federal Reserve resuming interest rate rises later this month to offset the risk of surprisingly robust growth. Investors are raising bets that even if the Fed leaves rates unchanged, they could remain high for longer than anticipated. The rate of inflation was 3.2 per cent in the year to July.

Other central banks are close to or have finished their tightening cycles.

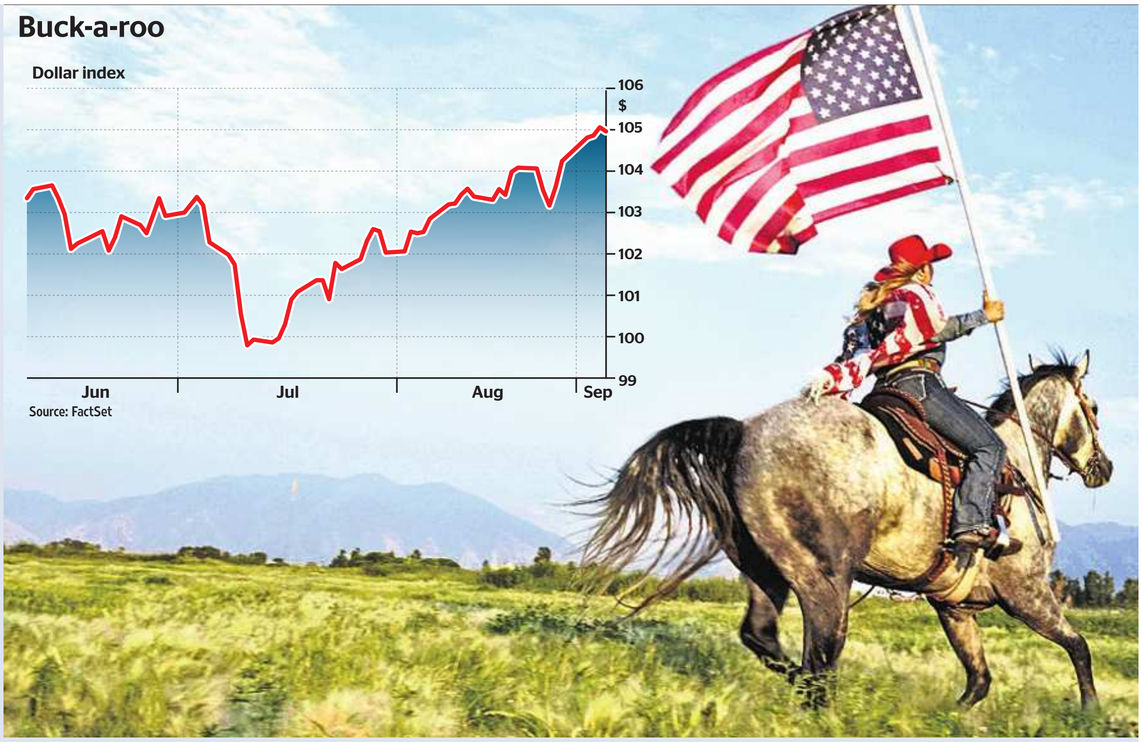
Andrew Bailey, governor of the Bank of England, said this week that the UK was "much nearer now to the top of the [tightening] cycle". Investors are split on whether the European Central Bank will lift rates for the tenth time in a row next week.

Resilient economic activity in the United States has prompted investors to buy the dollar to capitalise on better returns: growth in the UK, Europe and China is stuttering relative to America.

Recession risks have reignited in Europe after second quarter GDP estimates were cut sharply this week.

Sterling is up more than 3 per cent on the dollar this year, although it has given up much of its gains over the past month. A slowdown in the jobs market caused traders to dial down their bets on how far the Bank can push up the base rate.

The euro has weakened slighty against the dollar this year. China's yuan tumbled to its lowest level against the dollar in 16 years this week after latest figures showed that growth was slackening in the face of a real estate slowdown and record levels of youth unemployment.



Heathrow's airline charges 'about right' after Covid, watchdog rules

Robert Lea Industrial Editor

After three years of rows and regulatory wrangling, the competition authorities have ruled that a settlement on what Heathrow can charge its customer airlines to take off and land is broadly right.

However, in a provisional ruling the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) said it believed the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), the regulator of Heathrow, had made errors.

Fees for the use of Heathrow, Europe's busiest airport, are regulated by the CAA to ensure that they offer a fair deal. The charges are already some of the highest in the world.

The latest attempt to rule on an acceptable level of fees was complicated by the huge losses made both by the airport and its airline users during the pandemic. The CAA had ruled that future charges should be about 50 per cent higher than they were before the pandemic. Heathrow said that was too low; the airlines that it was too high.

Heathrow and some of the largest companies that use the airport, including British Airways, its biggest tenant, appealed against the CAA ruling.

In a statement yesterday the CMA said: "Overall we provisionally consider that the CAA was not wrong in most of the decisions that were appealed to us. Where the CMA has provisionally found that the CAA made errors in its decision the CMA proposes to require the CAA to reconsider them."

It said that it was not possible to quantify any changes in the price cap but it expected "any such changes to have only a small net impact relative to the CAA's overall price control decision, particularly as they may work in opposite directions". The competition body said that it was an appeal process of diametrically opposed views set against tough economic times for all parties. "An overarching theme of Heathrow's appeal was that the CAA was not allowing it to earn sufficient revenue to support investment, particularly after the difficulties of the Covid-19 period.

"Conversely, an overarching theme of the airlines' appeals was that the CAA was allowing Heathrow to charge too high a price per passenger.

"Many of the issues in these appeals had, as a common theme, the extent to which Heathrow and its investors should be relieved of bearing the costs of the Covid-19 pandemic and related restrictions on air travel, with airlines and their customers consequently bearing a greater share of those costs by way of higher airport charges, as well as who should bear the risks of any future major downward shocks in passenger numbers."

Responding to the CMA's decision, Virgin Atlantic said: "It is disappointing that the CMA has largely endorsed the CAA's decision, which did not go far enough to protect consumers from excessive charges at Heathrow. The airport has prioritised shareholders over consumers, relying on pessimistic passenger forecasts to support its agenda, in stark contrast to the actual number of passengers flying from Heathrow, which is close to pre-pandemic levels."

Heathrow is owned by international investors including the sovereign wealth funds of Qatar and China. John Holland-Kaye, its chief executive, who antagonised airlines during his near-decade in charge, is standing down and is being replaced by Thomas Woldbye, who has most recently been running Copenhagen airport.

Branson's cruises buoyed by $550m fundraising

Dominic Walsh

Sir Richard Branson's adults-only cruise brand has raised $550 million of new capital to accelerate growth plans.

The capital raise by Virgin Voyages was led by the private equity firm and investment manager Ares Management with additional funds from existing investors, including Virgin Group and Bain Capital.

The new funding would "enable Virgin Voyages to strengthen its financial position while supporting the brand's rapid expansion into international markets", it said.

In conjunction with the announcement, Virgin Voyages said that Tom McAlpin would be retiring as chief executive and moving up to chairman of the board of directors. Nirmal Saverimuttu, president and chief experience officer, takes over as chief executive.

Virgin Voyages officially launched in August 2021 and operates three ships servicing the Caribbean, the Mediterranean and, by the end of the year, Australia and New Zealand.

Its cruises depart from Miami, Barcelona and Athens, with Melbourne to follow, and offer more than 60 itineraries sailing to a 100 ports of call. On board facilities include more than 20 restaurants, in many cases serving food from Michelin-starred chefs, daily fitness classes and shows.


Virgin Voyages won the World's Best Award for best megaship cruise line

This year Virgin Voyages won the World's Best Award for the best megaship cruise line.

It is not, however, all plain sailing. Virgin Voyages said that it had been forced to make the "incredibly tough decision" to delay the introduction of its fourth ship, Brilliant Lady, which was due to set sail in December from Miami.

Australian strikes drive up gas prices

Patrick Hosking

Wholesale gas prices rose after workers at some of the world's biggest liquefied natural gas plants in Australia began stoppages over wages and conditions.

The price of gas, which is used for electricity generation, increased by more than 13 per cent, with the Dutch October contract rising by €4.13 to €34.64, according to Eikon data. In the British market the October contract was up by 9 per cent to 86.5p per therm.

Australia is the world's biggest LNG exporter and although its main customers are in Asia the potential threat to supplies led to expectations of more competition for other supplies and pushed up prices in Europe.

The walkouts at Chevron's Gorgon and Wheatstone operations follow a dispute at another Australian producer, Woodside Energy, which averted strikes in a deal with the same unions. "Unfortunately following numerous meetings and conciliation sessions before the Fair Work Commission, we remain apart on key terms," Chevron said. The company said unions were demanding terms "above and beyond" others in the industry.

Brad Gandy, of the Offshore Alliance, a coalition of unions, said it had agreed "in good faith" to the talks, "but Chevron has barely budged".

Work stoppages of up to 11 hours are due to continue to Thursday, ratcheting up to a total strike until September 29 if the dispute remains unresolved.

Europe is well placed to cope with disruptions to supply. EU storage sites are 93.5 per cent filled, which is higher than typical for the time of year, according to Gas Infrastructure Europe.

Dominic O'Connell

How much are we willing to pay to keep our steel industry in business?



British warships should be built with British steel, Sir Keir Starmer said this week. The Type 26 frigates being built by BAE Systems on the Clyde take only 4 per cent of their steel from the UK and Starmer was going to sort this out. He told the Daily Mirror that a Labour government was "gonna put its shoulder to the wheel of making sure that we have a steel industry of the future".

He might have said "in" the future, because the question of the moment is not so much whether Britain makes steel for the Royal Navy, but whether Britain makes steel at all. Domestic production has shrunk steadily, halving in the past eight years from 12 million tonnes a year to 6 million.

And never mind warships, most steel used in Britain is not made here. According to figures compiled by the manufacturers' trade body Make UK, imports last year took 55 per cent of the market. China makes more than 1 billion tonnes of steel a year and exports about 110 million tonnes.

Whether we continue to have a steel industry is likely to be decided over the next few months. The government has been in talks for more than a year with the two big players about what happens next. Those players are Tata Steel of India, which bought what remained of Corus (the old British Steel) in 2007 for a whopping £6.2 billion and has mostly lost money on it since, and the Chinese company Jingye, which ended up buying Tata's old Scunthorpe operations (which had in the meantime, confusingly, been renamed British Steel).

Both companies want subsidies to help them to pay for a switch from the traditional carbon-intensive method of steel making — firing iron ore with coking coal in blast furnaces — to something greener. British Steel wants to go for an electric-arc furnace, where scrap steel is melted using electricity. Tata is also tipped to go down that route but as Alun Davies, national officer for steel at Community Union told me on Times Radio this week, there are other options on the table and it is not clear which the company will choose.

Steel industry insiders I spoke to this week concurred with Davies: no one in the wider industry knows what Tata's preferred option is, a source of some concern to the population of south Wales, where Tata has most of its operations at Port Talbot.



There are two possible explanations for the uncertainty. One is that Tata does not want to frighten the workforce before it makes a final decision, which is perhaps understandable, although the steel unions are no fools and know that job losses are likely regardless. The second reason advanced is that the talks are at a very high level indeed: ie, Rishi Sunak is negotiating with Natarajan Chandrasekaran, the chairman of Tata Steel and Tata Sons, the company at the centre of the wider Tata conglomerate. This, by the way, includes Tata Motors, owner of Jaguar Land Rover, which did a deal that will give it about £500 million of government money to build a car battery factory in Somerset.

Tata Steel has asked for £700 million. It was reported this week that the government was prepared to offer £500 million. It sounds like a lot, but Colin Richardson, steel lead at the commodities news service Argus Media (also on Times Radio this week) reckons the total cost of the switch from old-style steel making could be as much as £3 billion. Where the government is with Jingye is unclear. The insiders I spoke to said the two sets of talks had been going in parallel but now appeared to be separate.

Some might wonder whether it is worth the effort. The UK has said goodbye to many industries over the years — coal mining, textiles, ceramics, shipbuilding — why worry if one more goes? And there are other potential sunrise industries that are receiving only small amounts of government support.

This week, for example, £50 million was handed out but split between 30 different projects: hydrogen-fuelled tractors, an electric first-responder motorcycle and a clutch of new battery technologies. Why spend £500 million on one industry facing an uncertain future, and which in any event has little chance of again becoming a world leader?

You might also wonder why Tata and Jingye are that bothered. In Tata's case, it has already written off the cost of the Corus acquisition and its main Indian plant at Jamshedpur makes ten million tonnes a year, more than double its UK output.

The answer is that there is something totemic about steel, and it does mean votes. It is the foundation for many other industries and (even if it is not at the moment going into battleships) strategically important. Politics and national security will always push ministers to help steel if they can. Labour's pre-election policy document, which is out next week, is likely to include a section on support for steel and the Conservatives will not want to be left behind.

On Tata's part there is still value in having a foothold in the European market (Tata has operations not just at Port Talbot but also a more modern plant at Ijmuiden in the Netherlands). It will not want to give that up too easily. Sunak is in India this weekend for the G20 summit. Perhaps the deal will be done there.

PS

One of the points made in pub arguments about Brexit was our importance as a trade partner. "The Germans sell loads of cars here, they won't want to lose that, you muppet!" was how it was normally put. It may be about to come true.

Trade in cars is tariff-free after Brexit but from next year you will have to be able to prove that a certain amount of your car was made in your domestic market, either in the UK, for exporters here, or in Europe for cars coming the other way. If you cannot, tariffs apply.

UK car plants have understandably been eager to have the date put back, because meeting the rules is extremely difficult. Now Germany is pushing for a delay too.

Brussels is not yet persuaded but, given the warmer relationship that has resulted in the Horizon science programme being restarted, some agreement seems likely.

That would be welcome news for British carmakers.

Dominic O'Connell is business presenter for Times Radio

Royalty fund suitor sees value in the golden oldies

Max Kendix

The music royalty fund Round Hill, which counts hits from the Beatles to the Backstreet Boys in its catalogue, is set to leave the London stock market after its board recommended a $468 million offer for the company from Alchemy Copyrights.

The offer, from Concord Cadence which is part of Alchemy, put a 67 per cent premium on the struggling stock's share price prior to the offer.

Having floated in November 2020 at $1 a share, Round Hill's share price fell dramatically as it fell victim to interest rate rises, downgrading expected cash-flow estimates. However, shares in the FTSE 250 company rose $0.44, or 64.4 per cent, to close at $1.13.

Shares also rose in Hipgnosis Songs Fund, Round Hill's larger peer.

The deal marks probably the last tie-up brokered by Cenkos Securities, the financial services advisory company that announced a £21 million merger with finnCap Group in March.

Founded in 2010 by Josh Gruss, and based in Nashville, Round Hill has a collection of about 150,000 songs. Top royalty earners include *All By Myself* by Eric Carmen, *What a Wonderful World* by Louis Armstrong, *Total Eclipse of the Heart* by Bonnie Tyler, and *I Want It That Way* by The Backstreet Boys.

In its last trading update in July, Round Hill reported group revenue of $10.18 million in the first quarter to March 31, up 94 per cent year-on-year.

Concord, one of the world's largest independent music rights companies, has been on an acquisition spree this year, driven by Bob Valentine, its new chief executive. It is majority owned by a pension fund, Michigan Retirement Systems.

In the recommended cash offer published yesterday, Concord said it "continues to be active in the market, looking at many potential transactions that meet its investment criteria".

Valentine said: "Round Hill Music has built an impressive portfolio of music rights which generate revenue across a variety of income streams and have demonstrated their ability to stand the test of time. The bulk of Round Hill's catalogue is from before the year 2000, leaving much of it less likely to generate revenue for rights holders from airplay or streaming than newer tunes."

Robert Naylor, chairman of Royal Hill, said the offer "represents excellent value for shareholders".

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Worth the weight: Wegovy fattens up Novo's valuation



The hunger for the anti-obesity drug has turned its maker into a European giant, **Alex Ralph** writes

One hundred years after being founded in Denmark, Novo Nordisk has suddenly become Europe's most valuable public company and larger than the country's economy, fuelled by the potential of its "wonder" weight-loss drug Wegovy.

Shares in the Danish pharmaceutical group continued to hit new highs this week in Copenhagen and its market value of about $438 billion has overtaken LVMH, the French luxury conglomerate that includes Louis Vuitton and Dior.

The company has become bigger than European behemoths such as Nestlé and L'Oréal and is the second biggest pharmaceuticals company in the world, ahead of the American giants Johnson & Johnson and Merck, according to figures from FactSet.

Novo's rise has been driven by breakthroughs in the fast-growing obesity drugs market, which for years was held back by side-effects and lacklustre weight-loss results but is set to become one of the most lucrative in pharmaceutical history.

Analysts forecast the market could be worth more than $100 billion by the start of the next decade, with Novo Nordisk and US rival Eli Lilly, the world's biggest drugs company, expected to dominate. Jefferies has projected $14 billion in peak sales for Wegovy.

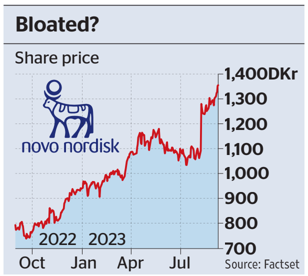
Lilly's Mounjaro was recommended yesterday by Britain's National Institute for Health and Care Excellence as a type 2 diabetes treatment and is awaiting approval in the US to treat obesity.

Novo's success is built on semaglutide, which is branded as Ozempic for diabetes and Wegovy for weight loss. Sales are soaring on demand from patients and a buzz among celebrities, including Elon Musk, the Tesla tycoon.

Excitement grew last month when a trial involving more than 17,500 overweight people with a history of heart disease showed that Wegovy cut serious cardiac events such as heart attacks and strokes by a fifth. Analysts at Barclays told clients: "If they play baseball in Denmark, Wegovy just hit a home run."

The findings suggested that the drug, which is injected weekly and suppresses appetite, will play a leading role in tackling obesity, a problem that has tripled over the past 50 years, according to the World Health Organisation.

Wegovy could also help to prevent severe cardiovascular problems and ease the burden on health systems, including the NHS in Britain where the



drug was introduced this week through a "controlled and limited" launch.

Novo Nordisk's success has reignited controversy over access to semaglutide. Healthcare systems and insurers having been reluctant to fund the jab because of the scale of obesity, the cost, and uncertainty over the duration of the treatment.

Data from the five-year trial, called Select, will be scrutinised at the American Heart Association congress in Philadelphia in November. The buzz has put a spotlight on the Danish company, which is unaccustomed to global attention and is grappling with supply constraints after an "explosion" in demand.

Kasim Kutay, chief executive of Novo Holdings, the controlling shareholder of Novo Nordisk, said that Novo's success was a "huge source of pride for the country". He added: "It is a household name and in Denmark it's always been a highly successful company. If you've been a shareholder in Novo Nordisk since it was formed you've got a very happy shareholder.

"A lot of people are retail shareholders. It's one of these things where you meet a lot of people and if they know that you work for Novo Nordisk they'll say, 'Oh, my gosh. On my 18th birthday my grandfather gave me some shares of Novo Nordisk 20 years ago. It was one of the best savings ever'."

The company traces its roots to two small Danish companies, Nordisk Insulinlaboratorium and Novo Terapeutisk Laboratorium.

The former began commercialising the production of insulin in 1923 to treat diabetes after August Krogh, a Danish Nobel laureate, whose wife, Marie, had diabetes, travelled to Canada after its discovery two years earlier there.

In 1925 the brothers Harald and Thorvald Pedersen, who were former employees of Nordisk, formed their own company, Novo Terapeutisk Laboratorium, and competed with Nordisk until they merged in 1989.

Kurt Jacobsen, a professor at the Centre for Business History at Copenhagen Business School, whose 480-page book on the history of Novo Nordisk was published this year, said "sharp competition" between the two companies was "one of the major reasons why Novo Nordisk became a world leader in the treatment of diabetes".

The company's foundation-based structure dates back to its origins.

Kutay, 58, said that Nordisk had been granted a royalty-free licence to manufacture insulin "on the condition that a significant portion of the profits would go to medical



Kasim Kutay says Novo Nordisk, which has an all-diabetic professional cycling team, is the pride of Denmark

Activists see off Restaurant Group's chairman

Dominic Walsh

Activist investors in The Restaurant Group ramped up their campaign for change after the company announced the resignation of Ken Hanna as chairman.

The Wagamama and Frankie & Benny's operator said that Hanna, who became chairman in January last year, would not be seeking re-election at next year's annual meeting, citing "personal reasons".

The City veteran had been targeted by activists led by the Hong Kong-based fund Oasis Management, which this week acquired a stake in TRG from Columbia Threadneedle, lifting its holding from 14.9 to almost 18 per cent.



Ken Hanna said he would step down from the Frankie & Benny's operator

The sale by Columbia Threadneedle will come as a disappointment to TRG because it was the biggest shareholder until now and had been publicly supportive. The fund manager is believed to have sold a 6.5 per cent holding, with some going to other activists.

Dan Wosner, head of Europe at Oasis, said he was "unsurprised" by Hanna's resignation. "We recently voted against the re-election of the chairman at the AGM. The status quo is unacceptable."

One of the biggest complaints has been the "unpalatable" pay of Andy Hornby, its chief executive. He received a total of £792,000 last year, including an annual bonus of £125,000, after TRG posted an £86.8 million loss. At the annual meeting in May, 33 per cent of shareholders opposed the remuneration policy and 21 per cent opposed Hanna's re-election.

A source close to the company, which has about 380 outlets in the UK, said: "Ken clearly wants to avoid a prolonged and distracting dispute with Oasis especially when TRG's just reported a sector-leading set of results."

The board said it had initiated the search for a successor and Hanna would remain as chairman until an appointment was made.

This week TRG delivered a "moderate" upgrade, reporting half-year revenues up 10 per cent and underlying earnings up 15 per cent amid strong trading from Wagamama, its pubs and concessions. Shares of TRG rose 3¼p, or 7.6 per cent, to 47½p.

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research", leading to the establishment of a foundation.

The Novo Nordisk Foundation is today one of the world's largest with assets last year of about $116 billion which are managed by Novo Holdings.

Novo Holdings is one of the biggest life sciences backers and its investments in the UK include stakes in Convatec, the FTSE 100 medical equipment company, and Oxford Biomedica, a cell and gene therapy company that helped make the Oxford-AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine.

Novo Holdings is the controlling shareholder of Novo Nordisk, owning about 28 per cent of the shares and almost 77 per cent of the voting rights.

Kutay, who sits on the Novo Nordisk board, said the structure, common in Denmark, was behind the success of both the country and the company, protecting the business from takeovers by overseas rivals. "It's one of the reasons why the country punches way above its weight. Because of this ownership a lot of companies never got acquired. Lundbeck, which is another pharma company in Denmark, Coloplast, a medical device company, or Carlsberg, all of these have a foundation involved in their ownership."

Kutay said it had also meant that Denmark had become the life science hub of the region after Sweden's two premier drugs companies merged: Astra with Zeneca in Britain and Pharmacia, which was acquired by Pfizer.

Jacobsen, who spent time at the company's Bagsvaerd headquarters, said the culture of the company was "like a family" and that Novo had become a "great rock in the middle" of Denmark.

Novo has expanded overseas, employing about 59,000 people in 80 countries, including Britain where it has about 400 employees and a headquarters close to Gatwick.

It has a professional cycling team, Team Novo Nordisk, where all the riders have type 1 diabetes.

The company made unwanted headlines in March when it was suspended from the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry for two years after it was found to have violated rules by failing to disclose its sponsorship of weight management training courses for healthcare professionals, which preferentially included positive information on Saxenda, Novo's earlier and less successful obesity drug.

Novo is also struggling with supply problems, limiting availability in the US, where Wegovy launched in 2021, as well as Germany, Norway and Denmark. In the UK, constraints are expected until at least the middle of next year.

"It's not a good business choice not to be able to produce when you have products that are in demand," Lars Fruergaard Jorgensen, Novo Nordisk's chief executive, told Bloomberg last month.

Some have doubted its surging valuation. In a "sell" note this week analysts at UBS said that at a premium to the sector of about 70 per cent "Novo looks priced for sustainable, super-normal growth".

Research from Airfinity last month stated that 63 patients would need to be treated with semaglutide over three years to prevent one heart attack, stroke, or cardiovascular death — at a cost of about $1.1 million.

UBS added: "We do not debate the fact that the world is challenged by obesity, rather we argue that the problem is too complex, and today's pharmacology too expensive, to offer sensible health-economics."

Focus on big clients gets results at Computacenter

James Hurley

Computacenter, the IT services provider, hailed "extraordinary growth" in sales in the first half of the year as its focus on large organisations insulated it from economic woes.

The computer systems and services group said revenues grew 27 per cent in the six months to June 30, to £3.6 billion, up from £2.8 billion a year ago and ahead of expectations. Pre-tax profit rose 13.9 per cent, from £107.8 million a year ago to £122.8 million.

Shares in the company closed up 15.3 per cent, or £3.30, at £24.67 as Mike Norris, the chief executive, said he was as optimistic as "we have ever been" about its prospects.

Computacenter said the performance came "despite well-published challenging macroeconomic conditions" and that it had "grown significantly faster than the market as a whole and also our major competitors".

Excluding foreign exchange and acquisition gains, revenues grew by 20 per cent, "among the best in the industry", according to Jefferies, the analysts.

The company said it had benefited from its focus on large corporate and public sector organisations which it said had "proved the most resilient and continued to invest in technology" during a difficult economic period. "We have grown our share within our existing customers and also acquired new customers," it added.

Computacenter cash position improved as previously high stock levels reduced towards normal levels.

The FTSE 250 group, now in its 19th consecutive year of adjusted earnings per share growth, was founded in 1981 by Peter Ogden and Philip Hulme. Today it employs more than 20,000 people in about 20 countries, including 4,000 in the UK, where its clients include Daimler, the NHS and the government.

27%
Revenue rise in six months to June 30
Computacenter

Computacenter helps customers to source and manage their technology infrastructure. At its headquarters in Hatfield, Hertfordshire, it operates the largest technology integration centre in Europe. It also runs service centres, in Milton Keynes and Nottingham, supported by engineering and consultancy services across the country.

It said it had enjoyed growth across its geographic markets and its service lines, with a particularly strong performance in Germany. Its UK results were more modest, with Computacenter highlighting project delays and clients deferring investment decisions.

Weaker gross margins and wage inflation drove a 43 per cent fall in earnings before interest and taxation in the UK, to £25.5 million.

In an analyst note, Jefferies said the company was "over-delivering, again", adding: "We continue to believe investors materially undervalue Computacenter's track record of outperforming."

Big payday a step closer for Burford

James Hurley

Shares in the world's biggest litigation funder surged yesterday after a judge ruled in its favour in a $16 billion dispute over an energy company nationalised by the government of Argentina.

The ruling in New York could pave the way for a multibillion-dollar payout for Burford Capital, which funded litigation brought by minority shareholders of YPF SA, Argentina's biggest oil producer, which was nationalised more than a decade ago.

Shares in Burford rose 247p, or 22.5 per cent, to close at £13.43. In a statement to the market, Burford said it was preparing a "further announcement … after review and analysis of the decision". Its shares, which are listed on London's junior Aim market, were suspended pending the announcement.

According to court papers, Burford was entitled to 70 per cent and 75 per cent respectively of damages awarded to Petersen and Eton Park, shareholders in the case. The plaintiffs had sought $16.05 billion.

YPF, Argentina's biggest oil producer, was nationalised in 2012. Petersen, an international conglomerate, owned about a quarter of YPF. Repsol, a Spanish company, had majority control before the government took over.

Repsol sued over the expropriation and the case was settled in 2014, with Argentina paying the Spanish company $5 billion. Petersen went bankrupt after YPF was nationalised. The government said it would appeal against the ruling.

HSBC ceases transactions in Russia

Patrick Hosking

HSBC is to halt commercial payments by business customers to and from Russia and Belarus, as lenders tighten restrictions beyond sanctions imposed after the invasion of Ukraine.

Britain's biggest banking group — whose global business spans China and the United States — said the volume of sanctions and trade restrictions globally imposed on Russia and its close backer Belarus had made it "increasingly challenging" to operate.

"We have therefore reached the decision to restrict commercial payments by our corporate entity customers to or from Russia and Belarus through HSBC," a spokesman said. Business customers have been informed that the bank no longer intends to process the payments from this month.

Nikkei, Japan's financial news service which first reported the move, said customers in Hong Kong had been told the restrictions would apply there from October 27.

HSBC has announced an exit from Russia, but the planned sale of its unit to the local lender Expobank has hit delays and is pending final regulatory approval. It employs about 200 people in Moscow.

HSBC came under fire from some staff in March when it was reported that it was editing its own analysts' notes, removing references to the "war" in Ukraine and softening them to "conflict". Moscow insists its invasion is not a war but a special military operation.

Business Markets

JD Sports up and running after analyst dismisses trading worries



Jessica Newman ***Market report***

JD Sports Fashion made a dash towards the top of the blue chip leaderboard yesterday as analysts argued that fears around the fashion retailer had been "well overdone". The shares, hit by warnings from US peers and macroeconomic uncertainties, have lost about a quarter of their value since early February — when they were trading at their dearest price in a year — after bosses set out big expansion plans.

Berenberg, for one, views the sell-off as "harsh" and thinks the "risks are lower than the market fears". Graham Renwick, an analyst at the German investment bank, flagged how cheap JD's shares against every peer group and reckons the company will reiterate full-year guidance at its half-year results later this month, which should be "sufficient to alleviate investor concerns and drive a relief rally". Reiterating his "buy" recommendation, he said: "The stock is priced for significant downgrades, which we do not think will materialise, creating an attractive entry point." Investors heeded his advice and piled in, sending JD's shares up 3½p, or 2.6 per cent, to 134p.

GSK was another top performer, advancing 56p, or 4 per cent, to £14.44¼ as analysts at Deutsche Bank reiterated their "buy" rating, while investors threw more **Next** shares into their shopping baskets on advice from Société Générale, lifting the retailer 116p, or 1.7 per cent, to £71.08.

Despite a tough start to the session, the FTSE 100 rose 36.47 points, or 0.5 per cent, to finish at 7,478.19, lifting the index's gains for the week to 13.65 points, or 0.2 per cent. The FTSE 250, up 79.34 points, or 0.4 per cent, at 18,463.19, fell 73.71 points, or 0.4 per cent over the week.

Computacenter climbed 330p, or 15.3 per cent, to £24.86 after bosses hailed "extraordinary growth" in the first half as the IT services reported a jump in revenues and pre-tax profit.

Shares in **Hipgnosis Songs Fund**, the FTSE 250 music royalties specialist, were up 12½p, or 15.7 per cent, to 92½p on news that its smaller rival **Round Hill Music Royalty Fund** has been swooped on by Alchemy Copyrights.

Smurfit Kappa, which has confirmed that it is in advanced talks to merge with a US rival, was among the biggest blue-chip fallers as it slipped a further 98p, or 3.2 per cent, to £29.98. Its peers in the packaging world, **Mondi** and **DS Smith**, were down 16½p, or 1.3 per cent, to £12.91½p and 4¼p, or 1.4 per cent, to 290p, respectively. **Melrose**, whose shares have risen more than three quarters since the start of the year, gave back 26½p, or 4.9 per cent, to 511p.

Widening half-year losses and a swollen debt pile at **Harland & Wolff** was a cue for investors to head for the exit, sending shares in the Belfast shipyard down 2p, or 12.8 per cent, to 13½p. **Gear4Music**, however, struck the right note with investors after the online music equipment retailer said it was pleased with progress in cutting costs and expanding gross margins, and that it was well prepared for its seasonal peak trading period. The shares jumped 30½p, or 34.9 per cent, to reach a nine-month high of 118p.

Wall Street report

Technology stocks led indices higher ahead of fresh inflation data next week that will provide clues on future interest rate rises. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 75.86 points, or 0.2 per cent, at 34,576.59, still down 0.8 per cent on the week.



Global food prices fall to two-year low

The United Nations food agency's world price index fell to a two-year low last month, reversing an increase in July, as a decline in most food commodities offset increases for rice and sugar. The Food and Agriculture Organisation index dropped to 121.4 points in August, offsetting a revised increase in July of 124 points. The figure was the lowest since March 2021 and 24 per cent below the record high in March last year after Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The fall reflected declines for dairy products, vegetable oils, meat and cereals, and came despite the UN agency's rice benchmark rising to a 15-year high. The rice index jumped by almost 10 per cent following India's decision in July to ban Indica white rice exports. The sugar index rose 1.3 per cent month-on-month. Sugar is now 34 per cent more expensive than it was a year ago.

US drugs company hit by $1.4bn opioid charge

Another large US drugs company has taken a $1 billion-plus charge related to a nationwide opioid settlement. Ohio-based Kroger yesterday flagged a $1.4 billion hit in the quarter, after a collective $13.8 billion settlement agreed by other retailers, including CVS Health, Walgreens Boots Alliance and Walmart, in November. Kroger, which said the retail environment remained "challenged", posted a loss of $180 million, its first quarterly loss after nine straight quarters of profit, accounting for the opioid-related charges. The company, which is merging with a smaller rival, Albertsons, in a $25 billion deal, also said it would sell 413 grocery stores to C&S Wholesale Grocers as the companies seek to secure clearance from regulators for a proposed tie-up. The shares closed up $1.40, or 3.1 per cent, at $46.93 in New York last night.

Issa brothers' EG Group reports rise in profits

EG Group, the petrol forecourt and convenience store group of the Asda-controlling Issa brothers, has reported a 10 per cent increase in underlying operating profits in the second quarter of the year to $335 million on revenues of $7.3 billion. EG Group is selling its UK and Ireland operations for £2.2 billion to Asda, which Zuber and Mohsin Issa acquired from Walmart in a $6.8 billion deal in 2020. The merger of those operations into Asda is due to close at the end of this year and follows a $1.4 billion sale and leaseback of 415 of its US sites. Zuber Issa said the deal has enabled EG to amend and extend its borrowings "to put in place a sustainable long-term capital structure". It said those profits will be used to repay secured loans with a plan to achieve borrowings of a little over four times its annual earnings.

The day's biggest movers

Company	Change
Hipgnosis Songs Funded Limited Smaller rival to be snapped up by private equity	15.7%
Computacenter Solid first-half results	15.3%
Direct Line Insurance Extends gains	4.4%
GSK Deutsche Bank reiterates "buy" recommendation	4.0%
JD Sports Fashion Bullish research note from Berenberg	2.6%
ConvaTec Group Ends relationship with Novo Holdings	-2.6%
Jupiter Fund Management Follow-through selling	-2.8%
Smurfit Kappa Investors unnerved by merger talks	-3.2%
Melrose Industries Suffers profit-taking	-4.9%
Petershill Partners Trims full-year guidance	-14.5%

Captain of the ship steers John Wood into calmer seas after change of tack

Ken Gilmartin sees a steadier future for the oilfield group but is glad he has been tested, **Greig Cameron** writes

A sharp share price fall, an activist investor agitating for change and a protracted takeover process would represent a forbidding inbox even for a public markets veteran.

Ken Gilmartin, who runs John Wood Group, deadpans that all this has made for a "pretty boring" start to what is his first experience of leading a listed company.

The multinational oilfield services, engineering and consulting group's share price plunged almost 16 per cent last November when Gilmartin unveiled a new strategy and warned that a turnaround would not be as quick as the market hoped. The following month Sparta Capital added to his woes. The activist investor said that it liked what it had heard from Gilmartin but it wanted share buybacks to limit the risk of Wood becoming a takeover target.

In January the first of five approaches from Apollo Global Management was submitted to the Wood board and shares surged in February when the talks were made public. The board stood firm until it opened the books at 240p per share only for the American private equity giant to decide to walk away in May.

Over breakfast in a country hotel on the outskirts of Edinburgh, Gilmartin acknowledges the "intensity" of what has happened since he took over in July last year. He believes, however, that the tumult has helped him to forge stronger relationships in the boardroom as well as within Wood's staff and investor base. He gently points out that results so far this year indicate that the strategy, essentially a greater focus on fewer but more profitable markets, is working, with revenue growing and the business on track to move into a net positive cashflow position next year.

There have been chunky contract renewals and wins including a five-year tie-up to maintain much of the North Sea estate of the London-listed oil and gas company Harbour Energy, which could be worth $330 million.

Gilmartin, 52, who was born in Co Sligo in the Republic of Ireland, studied civil engineering in Dublin and has worked internationally for most of his career. He relocated to Aberdeen to become Wood's chief operating officer from Philadelphia in the United States, where he had been working for 15 years for Jacobs, an engineering consultancy, where he ran half its portfolio.

He knew there was a possibility that he would be on the shortlist to replace Robin Watson as chief executive. "I'm a big believer in succession. You start by making sure you are empowering people with great talent."

Gilmartin said that it had got to the stage within Jacobs that he became a blocker of talent. "I remember waking up one morning and feeling I was in the way. So I wasn't really looking [for a new job] but this seed was in the back of my mind. Then Wood knocked on the door. I started looking and it just became really interesting. Wood was going to be a transformation project where you would have the chance to do the strategy and do something that little bit different. There was that sense of a company which has been through some rough years and I thought I could bring something from a value standpoint."

Wood needed a change after its efforts to diversify through acquisition left it with a high debt burden, onerous inherited legacy contracts and a $177 million bill to settle a corruption investigation into a business it bought.

Its capital markets day in November last year, when Gilmartin set out his strategy, was the culmination of months working with hundreds of Wood's senior managers.

In an attempt to diversify outside what was once its core North Sea oil services business, the company had expanded into numerous areas. The acquisition of its rival Amec Foster Wheeler, a consultancy, engineering and project management company, for about £2.2 billion in 2017 brought wider scope but a higher debt burden as well as units that did not quite fit.

Various business arms have been sold off since then. The disposal of the built environment arm last year to the Canadian company WSP for about £1.5 billion, a deal agreed before Gilmartin took over, helped to rebuild the balance sheet.

Gilmartin felt that the company was spreading itself too thinly and there was an opportunity to "double down" towards areas where Wood, which has about 36,000 staff, could stand out from competitors. That involves targeting high-growth areas within the energy security, energy transition, minerals, chemicals and life sciences sectors, such as carbon capture and hydrogen energy.

"As engineers our people love working on the most complex and most critical things: that is where we differentiate ourselves."

Gilmartin said that there was some internal concern initially as they began removing "billions" from the potential pipeline of work as part of the strategic overhaul but those worries have eased as the order book filled up again. "Unless your people understand the vision of what we are trying to do as an organisation, then you are dead. The journey we are on is a journey to build trust. Over the years we had lost trust with investors and internally."

Wood's share price has been mercurial since he took over, when it closed at 150½p. It dipped below 113p in the following months before rallying until the capital markets day in November. There was an elevation during the Apollo talks where it topped 225p and then the inevitable fall, to 143½p, when the American suitor walked away.

Gilmartin does not try to feign disinterest in these ups and downs. "You can't look at [your share price] all the time but any CEO of a publicly listed company who says they don't look at it is lying.

"You have to provide that return to your investors because if you don't you are not going to be there very long. There are thousands of companies people can invest in, so why would they invest in us?"

Gilmartin admits that part of him was relieved when Apollo made the approach as it felt like vindication because others from outside Wood saw the value in what he was trying to do. He had already spent time going to meet as many people as possible during his first few months in the job, which he thinks helped staff to trust him during the Apollo process. "You always see flip-flops within corporate levels of organisations. The big thing everybody said was that the message didn't change. We were absolutely consistent. One of the things about building back trust is to listen, to hear, to understand. Then you can show action on the back of that.

"Authenticity and being able to be who you are and be as honest as you can be is how you start to build trust back again."

Gilmartin is a self-described "sports nerd" who says he could happily "watch live sport forever". He follows a number of teams ranging from Sligo Rovers, his hometown football team, to the Irish rugby squad and through to American football's Philadelphia Eagles and basketball's Philadelphia 76ers. He played as a football goalkeeper and Gaelic football player to university level.

Perhaps that contributes to his tributes to the power of teams and his suggestion that "the scars" he has from earlier in his career when things went wrong have helped him to become a better leader. He declined to cite specific examples, but said that instances where budgets had spiralled and delivery dates slipped had proved painful but educational. "When things go off track you get to see … how people react under pressure, your relationships get stronger. You learn so much about yourself when things are out of your control but yet you are still responsible.

"Someone said to me, it is easy being the captain of the ship when it is flat calm; the true test of a captain is when it is blowing a gale and it is choppy."

Wood appears to be offering a chance to prove himself capable during a storm but he adds: "I think the future is bright for Wood. From a shareholder perspective I think we are still undervalued but that will look after itself. We know where we are going and I am looking forward to it."

LUCY YOUNG FOR THE TIMES



Ken Gilmartin acknowledged his first year had been "intense" but insists his strategy of targeting fewer markets is working

Q&A

Who is your mentor? I have probably learnt more from lessons than mentors. I've also learnt from watching people over the years and as a result have certainly developed an inbuilt sense of what not to do.

Does money motivate you? No, I am really motivated by the desire to maximise every single opportunity and to do everything I possibly can to win.

What was the most important event in your working life? Becoming CEO of Wood.

Who do you most admire? I naturally go to sports people when it comes to this question. People like Michael Jordan, Serena Williams, below, and Andy Murray.



What is your favourite television programme? Sport: I can watch live sport forever. In terms of a television series, The Wire, Breaking Bad, The Big Bang Theory, The Office (US over UK) are all favourites.

What does leadership mean to you? Influence. This breeds empowerment, which breeds trust and enables you to give others the chance to become great leaders. Succession is the most important thing to me as a leader. Who comes after me will be a measure of how successful I have been.

How do you relax? Watching sport — any and all. I also enjoy walking to clear the mind and golfing to escape. I love art too: I have a favourite picture in my office called Back to Nature by Ned Martin.

CV

Age 52

Education Civil engineering, University College Dublin.

Career 1999: project manager at Uhde GmbH; 2006: various roles including executive vice-president people and places solutions for Jacobs; 2021: chief operating officer for Wood; 2022: chief executive officer for Wood.

Family Husband to Karen and father to three daughters

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Money

Inheriting mum's flat has cost us £50,000

Mother left a £260,000 retirement flat to her children, but three years later it is unsold and costing them a fortune, says **Rachel Mortimer**

When Dorothy Clarke bought her flat in August 2018, it was the beginning of a new chapter after the death of her husband. She paid £244,950 to the Methodist Homes housing association (MHA) for a two-bedroom apartment in the Fairthorn retirement development in Sheffield.

She planned to leave her home to her children, David Clarke and Gillian Nixon, never imagining that it would end up costing them tens of thousands of pounds in onerous service charges and other fees that many families do not realise come with retirement properties. Dorothy died in 2020 aged 88, and the flat was valued at £260,000 and put up for sale. However, there have been no offers, despite the asking price being reduced to £199,000.

The flat at Fairthorn is owned on a leasehold basis, which is common for homes that are part of a retirement development. MHA, a charity, charges a monthly service fee of £934, or about £11,200 a year, which is more than a full state pension. Service charges on retirement properties are typically much higher than those on ordinary leasehold homes, for which the average charge is £1,500 a year. This is because costs in retirement developments are significantly higher, as they cover the staff and emergency systems as well as building maintenance. Research by the consumer website Which? in 2020 found that service charges in retirement villages ranged from £190 to £840 a month.

For each month that Dorothy's flat remains unsold, David and Gillian are having to pay the service charges. When they sell their mother's property they must also pay an exit fee of 1 per cent of its market valuation for every year or part-year it has been owned. If they sold it tomorrow and the transaction took three months to complete, for example, the exit fee would surpass £10,000, in addition to the more than £38,000 in service charges that have eroded their inheritance since their mum's death. "On top of the nearly £50,000 already incurred in fees, we have also reduced the asking price by about £60,000," David said. "Our mother would be horrified that the equity in the property is being bled dry."

57%
Proportion of retirement homes in northwest England sold for more than the buying price



David Clarke and his daughter with his mum, Dorothy, and her husband, Brian

Exit fees are controversial yet common for retirement properties and are usually a percentage of the original purchase or sale price, with many developers arguing that this enables them to keep costs down for owners.

A Law Commission review in 2017 found that the fees were often buried in complex leases or disclosed late in the buying process — although it also said that they can make specialist housing "affordable by deferring part of the payment for services until they come to sell", and ultimately advised that the fees should not be abolished.

Estate agents say that the charges and strict contracts put buyers off.

David, 62, said that reducing the price on his mother's flat by 23 per cent had done "nothing to help to increase interest" and there had been no second viewings. Estate agents we have instructed said that people looking for this type of property prefer the more modern facilities, such as an onsite restaurant and hairdressers," he said. "We have asked MHA on multiple occasions to consider investing in the development to make it more competitive, but it has refused. We are powerless."

Just 66 per cent of retirement properties in the UK resold in 2021 achieved a higher price than that for which they were bought, according to the property company JLL. This fell to as low as 57 per cent in the northwest of England. In comparison, 93 per cent of sellers on the wider residential market in 2021 sold their home for more than they paid for it, according to estate agency Hamptons.

Dan Ryan from MHA said: "When someone has inherited a property and decides to sell, our practice regarding fees is in line with others in the retirement living industry. Our usual position is that we don't seek to recover fees accumulated on a property for sale until it is sold. Where an apartment owner makes a decision to sell the property, we often offer informal support and access to our marketing and sales expertise as a gesture of goodwill."

David and Gillian have tried to rent out the flat to cover some of their costs, but they said that a prospective tenant pulled out because of a "heavy-handed" subletting contract imposed by MHA.

Michelle Niziol, of the Oxfordshire-based estate agency IMS Property Group, said that many retirement properties were stuck on the market because few buyers can afford the "astronomical" service charges.

"Contracts with the retirement developer also frequently contain strict clauses which can make life complicated for owners," she said. "These types of properties are not easily sellable when they come back to market, especially because buyers favour newer, shinier developments.

> Our mother would be horrified that the equity is being bled dry

"Often, families who inherit the home end up paying thousands of pounds in service charges on empty properties every year."

Demand for specialist retirement living is expected to grow as the average age of the population increases. Research by the property company BNP Paribas Real Estate last year found the supply of housing for retirees was 487,000 units short of what is needed.

The average price of a property in a retirement community was £316,000 in 2021, having risen by more than a fifth over the previous five years, according to a report by JLL.

Samantha Rowland from BNP Paribas said: "Retirement villages provide significant social value and offer a lot of positives [from] living in a community. But there are service charges attached to these properties, and it's super-important that these are explained on day one. It's not unusual that families of owner-occupiers aren't aware of these."

Now you can finally beat inflation with 7.5% on your savings

The best savings rate today is from a regular saver account with Skipton Building Society paying 7.5 per cent — but there's a catch. You can save a maximum of £250 a month, the rate is only for a year and to qualify you needed a savings account or mortgage with the firm on May 31.

Regular savings accounts often pay the highest interest, but there are more conditions and restrictions attached to them and if you have a big chunk of savings, they will not be your best bet.

Skipton said that 60,000 members opened the regular saver account in its first three months. It expects to pay out more than £7 million in interest by the end of the term. If you saved the maximum amount each month, after a year you would have paid in £3,000 and earned £121 in interest.

You can earn more by depositing a larger amount in an account paying a lower rate. If you put £10,000 into Santander's easy-access account which pays a market-leading 5.2 per cent, after a year you would have earned £520.

The best one-year fixed bond rate is 6.2 per cent from the Treasury-backed bank National Savings & Investments.

Some banks are doing more to sweeten the deal. First Direct pays £175 if you switch your current account using the official switching service and you will get access to a linked regular savings account that pays 7 per cent for one year with maximum monthly deposits of £300. If you switch between now and October 1, you will be entered into a prize draw to be one of five account holders to win £12,500.

If you have a Club Lloyds account, you can earn 6.25 per cent fixed for one year with a maximum deposit of £400 a month from its Monthly Saver account, while NatWest and RBS have regular savers that pay a variable rate (which moves in line with the Bank of England rate but is currently 6.17 per cent) on up to £5,000 with a £150 a month maximum deposit.

Barclays is the only linked regular savings account without a monthly deposit limit, but it only pays a variable rate of 5.12 per cent on up to £5,000.

Some banks and building societies offer regular savings accounts to all customers, meaning you don't have to have any other accounts with them, but the rates are not as generous. Saffron Building Society pays 5.75 per cent variable for one year on deposits of up to £50 a month, for instance.

Halifax and Principality Building Society both pay 5.5 per cent fixed for one year on up to £250 a month, while Hinckley & Rugby Building Society pays 5.25 per cent variable for two years on up to £500 a month. Some accounts allow penalty-free withdrawals during their term.

A few of the regular saving rates are now higher than inflation, which was at 6.8 per cent for the year to July, according to the Consumer Prices Index measure. This means that after months of very high inflation and lower savings rates, you now have some chance of getting a real return on your money.
David Brenchley

Money

The £160k cost of your larger, longer later mortgage

Holly Mead
Deputy Money Editor

The idea of still paying off a mortgage in retirement terrifies me. But this is the reality that a growing number of people are facing — and it's easy to understand why.

The average first-time buyer is 33, and it stands to reason that the later you start paying a mortgage, the later you are likely to clear the debt.

But, perhaps more importantly, houses are more expensive, so many buyers are opting to spread the cost of their mortgage over a longer term to make it more affordable.

If you took out a £250,000 mortgage on a 25-year term at an interest rate of 5.5 per cent, for example, your monthly payments would be £1,535. You need to earn almost £20,000 a year just to service that debt. Stretching the mortgage term to 35 years would knock almost £200 a month off the payments, bringing them down to £1,340.

A growing number of lenders are offering 40-year mortgage terms, with HSBC last week becoming the latest big name to join the pack. Stretching the above mortgage over 40 years would bring monthly payments down to about £1,290.

It is undoubtedly a good thing that lenders are reacting to the fact that the traditional way of borrowing may not suit the world today. Financial services moving with the times, who'd have thunk it?

Skipton is a great example. The building society recently launched a 100 per cent mortgage for renters. The idea of 100 per cent mortgages may cause many people heart palpitations; we saw in the financial crisis how badly these can go wrong. But Skipton's product recognises the Catch-22 that many renters find themselves in: "My rent is so high that a mortgage would be cheaper, but because my rent is so high I can't save a deposit to get a mortgage."

Only those who have paid rent for at least 12 months are eligible for the Skipton loan, and the amount that you can borrow is tied to the amount you have been paying in rent.

Perhaps 40-year mortgages fall into this camp of pragmatic products too. And yet, looking at the maths, I can't help but feel concerned. When you stretch your term and lower your payments, you chip away at the capital you owe at a slower rate. Put simply, the longer you have a loan, the more interest you pay.

The borrower with a £250,000 25-year mortgage would repay a total of £460,566 over the term (assuming their rate didn't change). Over 40 years, they would repay £618,924 — so spending almost £160,000 more to reduce your monthly bills by £250.

Brokers and lenders alike will argue that these borrowers will, in time, when they can afford it, reduce their mortgage term. I'm not convinced that they will. Few people voluntarily choose to increase a bill if they can avoid it. It's the same reason that I never seem to get around to upping my monthly pension contributions.

Plus, these borrowers may want to upsize and borrow more; outgoings may increase as they start a family; or their income may fall if they change job or stop working while they care for children or relatives. All of these things make reducing your mortgage term either unappealing or plain unaffordable.

The upshot is that more people will be paying off their mortgage into retirement. And this is a worry when you consider that most of us are under-saving for retirement. All of the handy sums about how much income you need in retirement assume you will be mortgage-free.



> **Imagine if you funnelled the extra £160,000 on your 40-year term into your pension instead?**

According to the trade body UK Finance, 19 per cent of first-time buyers who took out a mortgage in June had a term of 35 years or more. Another 35 per cent had between 30 and 35 years. About 60 per cent of new mortgages between April and June were due to end after the borrower's 65th birthday.

It used to be the case that your bank would want you all paid up by age 65, but many will now lend into your seventies or eighties, and a handful have no age limit at all. But while it's possible to still be paying your mortgage in your eighties, it doesn't make it the right option — especially if you think about the wider impact on your finances.

Consider how much more you might be able to put into your pension if you weren't spending it all on mortgage interest. The aforementioned borrower with the 40-year term has spent £158,358 more on their mortgage than the borrower with the 25-year term. Imagine if they had been able to funnel the £160,000 extra they spent on their 40-year term mortgage into a pension instead. That's about an extra £3,900 a year saved over 40 years — if that grew at 6 per cent, it would give them a pension pot of about £639,000.

If mortgage lenders are going to move with the times — allowing longer terms and later-life borrowing — then they must flag up the risks too. They should give regular nudges to encourage borrowers to reduce their terms, highlighting how much they could save in interest and how that money could grow in a pension or savings account. Overpaying should be encouraged too because even small, regular amounts could shave years off your term.

Mortgages are getting larger, longer and later in life. In a world of rising interest rates and near-record house prices, this may be a necessity for some. But you will pay a price for stretching your mortgage, and you need to work out whether that price will be too high.

*@holly_mead_*

The big question

Should those who work from home be paid less?

Yes



Patrick Reid from the foreign exchange consultancy The Adamis Principle

Working from home conjures up a lot of images in my mind and none of them are productive. I get it, though. Back in 2020 when Covid was on the rampage everything changed. I for one encouraged flexible working in my company, which actually worked quite well. Zoom in many ways was the second coming — it was the zeitgeist and very welcome.

But things have returned to normal, which means it's time to get out of your pyjamas, get yourself in the shower, smarten up and get yourself off to work — because you get paid to do so. I know for some this is a bizarre concept, but stick with me.

If you insist on working from home then you should be paid less, for three main reasons.

First, you are contributing less to the economy by not supporting local businesses near your office, like restaurants, sandwich bars and coffee houses. You are also spending less on transport. This means you are of less "economic value" — it may sound brutal but it is a fact.

Second, if you are working from home you are saving a fortune.

When I lecture at the University of Cambridge I like to use the term "bang for bucks". Real wages are low in the UK because the cost of living is still quite high. Inflation is everywhere in what you buy. But if you are not spending then there's no inflation eating away at the money you earn.

Third, you are less productive when you're not in the office. Despite many jumping on positive research about working from home, I strongly believe we do not have a decent data set of qualitative intelligence to make a case.

Also, some workers are quite frankly lazy — I for one am prone to take the foot off the gas when I work from home. But I love getting out in the City, doing deals and helping my clients over lunch.

No



Mansoor Soomro from Teesside University International Business School

It is completely unfair to think that working from home is for people who want to work less, or who don't have a lot to contribute to the workplace. The pandemic proved that working from home functioned well for a large majority of employees and employers.

The notion that quality work can only happen at the office is flawed. In today's digital economy, location does not necessarily drive service excellence or product quality.

Regardless of whether work is done from home or the office, employees can perform the same job, fulfil the same responsibilities and equally contribute to the success of the organisation. As long as business outcomes are fulfilled there's no case to pay them less.

Research unequivocally shows that working from home does not inherently reduce an employee's productivity. There are multiple other reasons for that, such as task clarity, morale, leadership style and employee engagement.

The pandemic showed that jobs can be performed from home with little to no loss in efficiency. Moreover, there is a large body of management literature concluding that working from home has increased productivity, primarily due to fewer physical meetings, reduced commute times and improved work/life balance.

For those not in the office to be paid less is to penalise them for the same level of productivity just because they happen to do it at home. Yes, employees who work from home save on commuting, but they also have increased utility costs and usually need to invest in setting up a home office.

When winter arrives, remote workers will see a large increase in gas and electricity bills. Should they be stung twice with reduced pay and a larger energy bill? It's simply not true that employees working from home save money over those who commute.

IN THE SUNDAY TIMES TOMORROW



FAME AND FORTUNE
Geoff Shreeves: I lost £15k in a scam, Dad bought me champagne

PLUS
Why you can't rely on that tax-free pension lump sum

New rules, same old insurance tricks

It is now supposed to be easier to get a fair deal on car and home cover, but the cheapest rates are still hidden away, says **Ali Hussain**

Drivers and home owners are still paying too much for insurance, despite new rules that were meant to stop loyal customers losing out on the cheapest deals.

Insurers have been banned from charging existing customers more at renewal than new ones since January last year. The government said this would save consumers £4.2 billion over a decade.

However, since then the average cost of a comprehensive car policy has risen 45 per cent to £794, while home and buildings cover is up 28 per cent to £188, according to the consumer website Compare the Market. Experts say this is partly due to insurers passing on higher costs for transportation, materials and workers, such as mechanics.

Last week Direct Line Group, which owns Churchill, Direct Line and Privilege, admitted that it had overcharged customers £30 million when they renewed their home or car insurance, and pledged to refund them all. The UK's second-biggest car insurer said it had not followed the new rules properly.

And Times readers have also found that their insurers seem to be flouting the rules. Peter and Rosalind Hocking, from Budleigh Salterton in Devon, had a home insurance policy with Aviva costing £299. The price went up to £365 this year on renewal, despite no claims or changes to their circumstances.

Using a comparison website, they found a similar deal from Aviva for £291.

When they queried this, the insurer said that the comparison site deals were from different brands — Aviva Online and Aviva Zero. Their policy was with Aviva Direct, and can be taken out only by those who apply directly to the insurer. Aviva said it is more expensive because it includes telephone customer support.

So the Hockings applied for an Aviva Direct deal using different names and the address of a next door neighbour who lives in an identical bungalow and were offered a policy for £267 — £98 cheaper than their renewal quote and £32 less than they paid last year.



Rosalind and Peter Hocking have switched insurer after a price hike

Peter, 62, a retired consultant, said: "When I query it I'm fed more words about risk profiles and that, somehow, the same is different."

The couple have now switched to Saga with a policy for £260 and have also sold their Aviva shares in "disgust".

Aviva said its renewal quotes are fully compliant with the rules and that the comparisons of Direct policies with others will not be on a like-for-like basis. It added: "If a sample quote is generated using a name that can't be matched to an address, it is likely to generate an inaccurate premium."

Warren and Jacky Braham, both 74, who live in Hendon, north London, had a car insurance policy with Marshmallow that cost £511 last year.

It was due to renew automatically on August 15. Motor insurers are allowed to do this to ensure that you are not driving without insurance, which is a legal requirement, but they must make it clear that your policy will be auto-renewed, give you the option to turn that auto-renewal off, and make sure you know that you can switch elsewhere.

£30m
Amount due to be refunded to overcharged Direct Line customers

The Brahams had an email on August 2 saying that their policy would go up 77 per cent to £905 this year, and payment would be taken on August 15.

Warren, a retired commercial manager, said that none of their circumstances had changed. He used a comparison site and found a deal for £780 with another company. Using Marshmallow's mobile phone app, he let the company know he did not want to auto-renew. However, he felt the process was unnecessarily complex.

He said: "Each time you think you reach the end, the system raises new questions and requires you to review policy details or send information already provided. You also then have to speak to someone about why you're leaving and pass various security checks. Once you provide all the details, you are told the company will respond within a few hours, but it doesn't.

"Over a period of many days, including at least six further attempts to cancel the auto-renewal, I ended up with the system not accepting my decision."

When Marshmallow said on August 13 that it would be auto-renewing the policy two days later, Warren contacted his bank to block the payment. He informed Marshmallow and received an email saying the policy would be cancelled, but more details were needed such as date of birth and car registration, which the firm already had.

Warren said: "The whole process is clearly designed to delay cancellation."

Marshmallow said: "We ask customers to speak to us before cancelling their renewal because we want to make sure they are receiving an accurate price."

The company claims it tried to contact the Brahams on multiple occasions before renewal to discuss their cancellation request.

How to keep your premium down

- While premiums have increased, it's always worth shopping around. Check different comparison sites, try insurers directly on the phone and online and if you find a cheaper policy, use this to haggle. Bear in mind that insurers are allowed to offer different deals based on how a customer applies for a deal.

- If you use a comparison site, make sure the details that are automatically added are right for you. If not, the quote may go up once you amend it, Don't feel pressured to go ahead with the policy if the price goes up.

- Your renewal quote may say that it includes discounts, for example for no claims, despite an overall premium increase. But this may not be true — the Financial Ombudsman Service, a free dispute resolution service, has had cases where it ruled that such claims were misleading.

- Ask if there is a similar deal that is cheaper. Many insurers have different brands, some of which may offer the same cover for less, but this is not always made clear to customers. In one case the ombudsman found that a customer was offered a half-price premium that had also been available the year before. The ombudsman found that the insurer had not provided all the information for them to make an informed choice.

- Some insurers offer cheaper deals, but you have to add "bolt-ons" such as protection for your windscreen or alloy wheels, which used to be part of standard cover. These add-ons may be included in your policy on renewal, so check if you actually want them. Most car insurers add in breakdown cover but the costs can vary between £25 and £200, according to the consumer group Which?. You can buy this separately, often for less.

The Scottish American Investment Company (SAINTS)

Tempted by a tasty short-term yield?

You could regret it.



There are investments out there offering some mouth-watering short-term yield figures. Understandably, it's all too easy to bite. Trouble is, succumbing to short-term temptation can be fatal when it comes to long-term growth. The Scottish American Investment Company (SAINTS) focuses on capital growth as well as income. Aiming for growth plus yield. You could fall for the short-term trap. Or you could take a longer-term view – and let your investment mature.

Please remember that changing stock market conditions and currency exchange rates will affect the value of the investment in the fund and any income from it. Investors may not get back the amount invested.

Find out more at saints-it.com
A Key Information Document is available. Call 0800 917 2112.

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5 big investment errors that will lose you money

Avoid these mistakes and your portfolio will soar, says **David Brenchley**



Ever been tempted to sell an investment after a stock market wobble? Have you been guilty of checking your portfolio every day or putting money into a fund only after it has gone up in value? You're not alone.

Interactive Investor, the fund manager, found that investors were prone to mistakes that left them worse off than if they had simply put their cash into a bog standard fund. It said that the average DIY investor had achieved returns of 7.4 per cent since January 2020 while the average balanced multi-asset fund (which are designed to serve as ready-made portfolios for more cautious investors, holding a mix of stocks, bonds, gold and currencies) had returned 7.9 per cent.

Investors aged between 18 and 24 did better, with average gains of 9 per cent. But this was still much lower than the FTSE 100, which returned 13.2 per cent over the same period, and America's S&P 500, which gained 52 per cent.

Much of this can be put down to evolution. Humans are prone to behavioural mistakes that work against us when we're investing — and loss aversion is a key one. The behavioural economists Daniel Kahneman and Amos Tversky found that we feel the pain of a loss twice as much as we feel the joy of a gain. This is dangerous for investors. It means that we are more likely to panic and make a bad decision when the stock market falls, selling out just at the point when share prices are about to recover and deliver bumper returns.

Here are some other reasons why DIY investors perform so poorly — and what you can do to avoid them.



1 Getting your timing wrong

Bad timing

Investors miss out on a fifth of the returns made by the funds that they invest in because of bad timing, according to the financial firm Morningstar.

In the ten years to the end of 2022, the average fund in the US gained about 7.7 per cent a year. But the average return on each dollar invested (essentially the return that investors got) was 6 per cent a year, Morningstar said.

Why is this? According to Mike Coop from Morningstar it is because we tend to put more emphasis on what has just happened, rather than what may happen in the future. That means we sell after poor performance and buy after good performance — typically the worst time to do either.

"Investors constantly make decisions that ultimately cost them," Coop said. "And they do it at the most critical points in time — at the peak of the boom and the trough of the sell-off."

Investors choosing funds in specific sectors such as energy or healthcare were the worst culprits. The average fund here gained 10.8 per cent, while the average return per dollar invested was 6.4 per cent. These funds are often known as thematic funds and investors tend to buy them when the theme is at its most popular and therefore its peak, before selling out after it has started to fall, giving no time to recover lost ground. "Staying the course is important, don't get distracted and don't throw in the towel," Coop said.

■ **How to avoid it**
Think long-term. Don't follow the latest investment fads and try not to sell any holding when things seem to be at their worst — if anything, this is the time to buy.

Missing the boat

The biggest mistake most people make is leaving it too late to get started, said Tom Stevenson from the investment firm Fidelity International. There are plenty of reasons people don't start investing earlier: they may not have the money to do so, they may lack the knowledge, or it could simply be inertia. Other times, though, it is because people are waiting for the "right time" to jump into the stock market. "Waiting for the perfect entry point is never a good idea. It's impossible to time the market — you end up being too late, missing the top and then missing the bottom," Stevenson said.

In a hypothetical example, two investors each save £1,000 a year and achieve a return of 5 per cent each year. The first investor starts at the age of 25, stops aged 50, and leaves their cash invested until retirement age at 65.

The second investor starts at 35 and keeps putting money into the market until they are 65. The second investor will save £5,000 more, but have £37,275 less by their 65th birthday because the money has not had as long to grow.

■ **How to avoid it**
Once you have built a rainy day fund, you can think about starting to invest. Start with small, regular amounts — most platforms let you set up a regular plan with £25 a month — and increase them every time you get a pay rise.

Failing to diversify

The economist Harry Markowitz said that diversification was the only free lunch in investing. A diversified portfolio allows you to increase your wealth without taking unnecessary risks that could wipe out a big chunk of your gains.

But it's easier said than done, and many portfolios are anything but diversified. Many investors, for example, hold a global stock market index fund and a global technology fund. The former has about 12 per cent of its portfolio invested in Apple, Microsoft, Amazon and the Google owner, Alphabet, and the latter may have as much as half of its portfolio in three of those stocks (Amazon is not classed as a tech stock). Some investors will go further still and invest in individual stocks, the most popular choices are — you guessed it — Apple, Microsoft, Amazon and Alphabet.

Experienced investors are not immune to this mistake. Many pensioners choose to invest in a range of UK equity income funds so that they get a regular income in retirement. But most of these funds will have very similar holdings.

"Diversifying isn't just a question of buying lots of holdings," said Rob Burgeman from the wealth manager RBC Brewin Dolphin. "It's about having a variety of investment styles and sectors in your portfolio."

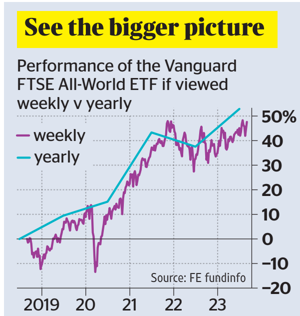
■ **How to avoid it**
Bear in mind that if all your holdings have been rising at the same time, the odds are that they will fall in tandem. Consider investing in assets that are not correlated: that is to say, they rise when



3
Putting all your eggs in one basket



See the bigger picture



4
Overchecking — and panicking



1901-1921

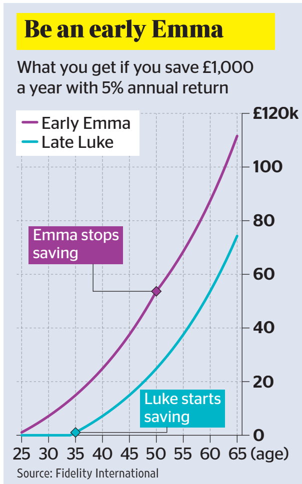
The only 20-year period since 1871 in which US stocks failed to beat inflation



2
Starting too late



Be an early Emma





5
Forgetting about inflation

the bulk of your portfolio falls. Consider government bonds or gold.

Checking in too often

Mobile phone apps make it all too easy to monitor your portfolio minute by minute, but checking in too often could hurt your returns.

Investors are notoriously bad at ignoring short-term stock market fluctuations. It can be tempting to react quickly when you hear that the stock market or a particular share that you hold has fallen.

But logging in to see that you're down, say, 20 per cent, is likely to make you panic — and you could be tempted to sell when you should be buying.

Stock markets have been volatile over the past five years, with about four significant dips. The chart (top right) shows what you would have seen if you logged into your investment account after a lump sum investment every week, compared with once a year.

Those who logged in weekly would have seen losses, which could have scared them into selling, while those who logged in annually may not even have realised that the market had fallen.

Chris Miles from the fund house Capital Group said: "Market downturns can feel like they last forever at the time, but the average bear market — when the market falls by 20 per cent or more — lasts only 12 months, while the typical bull market lasts for 67 months."

The economist Ben Graham, who died in 1976 and was one of those who helped to shape the philosophy of the legendary investor Warren Buffett after teaching him at university, said that "in the short run, the market is a voting machine but in the long run it is a weighing machine".

Stock markets can fluctuate on a day-to-day or even month-to-month basis. Over decade-long periods, though, they are good barometers of company profits, which tend to rise over time.

■ **How to avoid it**

Set up a regular investment plan, delete the app and don't look. You only really need to check your portfolio once a year — and this isn't to check performance, it's to rebalance, selling holdings that have grown and buying more of those that have fallen.

Forgetting about inflation

Inflation is often called the invisible tax. It doesn't show in your pay packet, or when you receive profits or income from invested assets, but every year it damages your wealth.

For your wealth to grow in real terms, it must grow at a faster rate than inflation, and that's particularly difficult in the environment of the past year or so, when inflation has been stubbornly high.

Investments must work harder when we can earn more on our savings too — or what's the point in taking the risk?

After 14 consecutive hikes to the Bank of England's base rate of interest, you can now get 5.96 per cent on a three-year fixed-rate bond. This looks attractive, but with inflation currently at 6.8 per cent, this is actually a 0.84 per cent loss in real terms.

When planning for retirement, you can use the rule of 72 to predict how long it might take for inflation to erode your money. Divide 72 by the rate of inflation to see how many years it will take for the value of your money today to halve. At today's rates, it would take about 11 years.

"You need to factor in just how damaging inflation can be over a 25 or 30-year retirement period," Stevenson said. At an average inflation rate of 3 per cent, it will take 24 years for your purchasing power to halve. "By the time you get to the end of your retirement, whatever you've saved is going to be worth half what you expected it to be."

■ **How to avoid it**

Try to ensure the returns on your savings and investments are higher than inflation so the value of your cash isn't eroded over time. This may not always be possible over the short-term (especially over the past six months when inflation has been in double digits) but there's only been one 20-year period since 1871 when stocks failed to beat inflation: between July 1901 and June 1921, according to the fund house Schroders.

And five things you should do

● Keep an eye on fees, as these are one thing you can control. Don't overpay for a fund or investment platform. A £10,000 investment with a 6 per cent yearly return would be worth £49,800 after 30 years with a low-cost investment charging 0.5 per cent a year, but a 1.5 per cent investment charge would mean it is worth just £37,450 after 30 years. "Cost is a hurdle for investors to overcome," said James Norton from the fund group Vanguard.

● Invest regularly. Set up a monthly direct debit that comes out of your account the day after payday.

● Set some goals and base your investment strategy around them. Are you investing for your retirement in 25 years' time, or saving for a house five years from now? Your goal will inform your investment choices.

● Picture your future self. Mark Pittaccio, a behavioural economist from Quilter, an investment manager, said that writing a letter to "future" you or using an app such as FaceApp (which shows what you will look like when older) can make what you're working towards feel more concrete.

● Don't worry. Investing is a long-term journey and you won't get every decision right along the way. But remaining calm during times of uncertainty, doing your research, and investing regularly can help to ensure you don't fall victim to some of the most common pitfalls.

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Why tip a fund manager just for doing their job?

Investment Eye

David Brenchley



When I eat out at a restaurant, get my hair cut or take an Uber, I rarely leave a tip — these things are expensive enough as it is.

It's frustrating, then, that one of the investment trusts in my investment portfolio is essentially asking me to tip the fund manager for a job well done. Ironically, the trust in question, BlackRock Throgmorton, is the worst-performing holding in my stocks and shares Isa. I've put it on the watchlist, although I'll give it some time to claw back some of the 35 per cent that it's lost me so far.

In my self-invested personal pension (Sipp), however, there are no holdings that charge a performance fee. Here I invested in Throgmorton's stablemate, the BlackRock Smaller Companies trust, instead and neither of the private equity trusts I invest in has performance fees, which is unusual for the sector.

The charges you pay are one of the only things that you can control in your portfolio, so you should avoid performance fees where you can.

What is a performance fee?

All funds and trusts charge an annual fee. Some are cheaper than others: passive funds that simply track the return of an index such as the S&P 500 or FTSE 100 can charge as little as 0.05 per cent, while for active funds run by a well-paid stockpicker 1 per cent a year is not unusual.

But some funds will charge a performance fee on top of this. This is common in the hedge fund and private equity space. Here, fee structures typically include a 2 per cent annual charge and a 20 per cent performance fee, which is charged on any gains that the fund makes above its benchmark index.

How do these funds perform?

Equity funds that charge performance fees tend to perform worse than those that do not, according to the wealth manager RBC Brewin Dolphin.

The average return of funds with performance fees has beaten the average fund in only two out of seven equity sectors: Europe excluding UK and Asia Pacific excluding Japan.

There are three funds investing in Japanese companies that have a performance fee and they have barely delivered a return to their investors over the past five years (up just 0.3 per cent a year on average), while Japanese equity funds overall have gained 2.8 per cent a year.

JOHCM UK Equity Income, the only fund in the UK equity income sector with a performance fee, is up 0.4 per cent a year, while its average competitor has gained 1.5 per cent a year.

In the UK All Companies sector, the seven funds with performance fees are up 1.1 per cent a year on average, versus 1.5 per cent a year for the sector as a whole.

"There are certain regions where it is worthwhile considering funds with a performance fee and others where it is not," said Rob Burgeman from Brewin Dolphin. "It is difficult to consistently outperform in markets like America, which is one reason so few US funds bother to attach a performance fee."

0.3%
The average annual return of funds with performance fees that invest in Japan

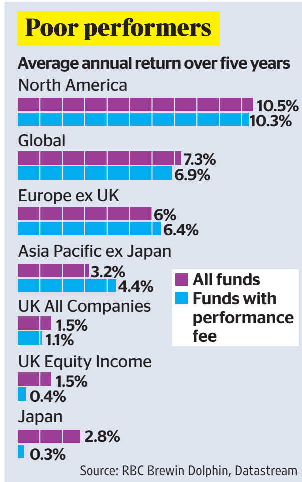
2.8%
The average annual return on Japanese equity funds overall

What to look for in a performance fee

You shouldn't automatically shun a fund just because it has a performance fee, but you should make sure that the fee is justified.

Burgeman said that there should always be what's known as a high water mark. This is the peak of the fund's performance. So, if a fund's unit price goes from 100p to 110p, it will charge the performance fee on the 10p increase. Then, the fund will only pay a performance fee again if it goes above 110p. If the fund goes down the next year from 110p to 95p, there's no performance fee and the high watermark remains in place. The next year, if the fund goes up from 95p to 120p, the performance fee isn't charge for the rise from 95p to 110p, but is paid on the rise from 110p to 120p.

In other words, "any underperformance must be earned back first before any performance fee is charged," Burgeman said.



Make sure that the fund you're considering is doing something very different to similar funds, especially if it is only investing in listed equities, said Daniel Lockyer of Hawksmoor Investment Management.

It could have an extremely talented manager, or a portfolio that looks nothing like its benchmark by investing in, say, micro-cap companies or unlisted stocks which require fund managers to do more research before they choose them.

Which funds should I consider?

Lockyer said that if you can find a fund that still has a long way to get back to its high water mark, this could make a good investment, although it's not always easy to figure out. Check the fund's key information document, factsheet and prospectus. If they aren't listed there, get in touch with the company itself through its investor helpline.

Burgeman highlighted Pershing Square Holdings, an investment trust managed by the hedge fund manager Bill Ackman, as an example of a well-run trust with a performance fee. The trust invests in listed US stocks, but has only between 8 and 12 holdings, making it very different from, say, the S&P 500. Shares in the trust are up 160 per cent over five years, well ahead of the S&P 500's 57 per cent return.

Throgmorton at least has one differentiating feature that some would say justifies its performance fee: it can short stocks (bet that a company's share price will fall, rather than rise). And, while its share price performance has been poor of late, down 1.1 per cent over three years, its net asset value (the value of its underlying holdings) is up 8.1 per cent in that time, suggesting that it is investor sentiment weighing down returns rather than a fundamental problem with the trust.

I'll hang on for now in the hope that the share price will bounce back once people become more positive about the prospects for UK stock markets.

But I suspect that I won't be rushing to invest in another fund or trust that charges a performance fee.

Online
Follow David Brenchley's investments as he makes his changes
thetimes.co.uk/investmenteye

Calm ~~before~~ through the storm

Current economic turbulence can be unsettling, but expert advice can help you stay focused on your goals.

VouchedFor is the UK's leading review site for financial advice firms. Our Top Rated Firms invite all their clients to give feedback, and receive an average rating of 4.8 out of 5 - from people like you.

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2023

Navigating uncertainty - a Top Rated Advice Firm's view

"Rising inflation and a relatively flat stock market have left many people uncertain as to the best solution for their needs.

Working with a trusted, independent financial adviser can help you stay focused on your goals, bringing peace of mind when it's easy to be rattled by negative news headlines."

ELLIS BATES FINANCIAL ADVISERS
Harrogate
Rated 4.8 out of 5
1,003 reviews for 24 advisers

— Ben Clapham, Director of Financial Planning, Ellis Bates Financial Advisers

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HOME TO THE UK'S MOST TRUSTED ADVISERS

Santander won't give mum her cash

Troubleshooter

Katherine Denham





I am writing on behalf of my 94-year-old mother because English is not her first language.

She has a UK savings account with Santander, which has a balance of about £4,500. Over the past two years she has been trying to close the account and get the money out but has got nowhere.

She cannot visit a bank branch in person because she lives in Malaysia — she hasn't been to visit us in London since the pandemic and now that she's older she feels that a 13-hour flight would be too much.

She doesn't use online banking and only has a savings book, which is now obsolete. We have written to Santander several times since 2021 to ask it to close the account but we have never had a reply to any of our letters. We have called numerous times, often being on hold for 40 minutes or more, and would sometimes get disconnected after passing the security checks. We also repeatedly get conflicting information — sometimes we are told that she needs to write a letter to close the account and other times we are told to phone.

We are still waiting for a reply to our last letter, which we sent in February.

Our last call to the bank was in July and the agent told us that closing the account over the phone wasn't possible. They said we needed to email, which we did straight away but were again met with a deafening silence.

The money left in the account is not a small sum and it would be lovely for my mother to have this cash to enjoy.

Lisa-Kim Kuan, London

THE TIMES Money Mentor Online
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Troubleshooter says

Your mum used to visit you a lot before the pandemic and had set up the savings account because she wanted access to spending money when in London. You said the last time she had withdrawn cash from the account was in 2018 when she had treated you and your family to a meal at a restaurant.

Nowadays, you have to be a UK resident to open a savings account with Santander, but your mum opened this one decades ago. Back then Santander offered a "not ordinary resident account", historically offered to non-UK residents.

Santander stopped offering this in 2004 but existing customers could retain their accounts. The interest rate was a pitiful 1.05 per cent so if your mum isn't visiting the UK it doesn't make much financial sense to keep the account open.

Closing it shouldn't be this difficult. Most Santander savings accounts can be closed over the phone, through the mobile app or online.

It's strange that you were told you could not. An administrative error was to blame, though I don't think that excuses the two years your mum spent trying to get this sorted. It also doesn't explain why she had been given conflicting information by Santander staff.

Three days after my call, the bank spoke to your mum, closed her account and transferred the £4,500. Santander has also awarded her £500 compensation to apologise for the delay.

It said: "We are very sorry for the issues Ms Tong had with her account. These are now resolved and we have offered compensation for the inconvenience caused."

£500 is not a bad return on her money, but two years is still an awfully long time to wait.

If you would like us to investigate a consumer problem, write to Troubleshooter, Times Money, 1 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9GF or troubleshooter@thetimes.co.uk. Please include a phone number

'If our car doesn't come soon, the grandkids will have outgrown it'

My wife and I needed a new car for our family because our grandchildren are rapidly growing in number and size. With great excitement we ordered a new Audi Q4 e-tron in November 2021. It was a cash purchase and we put down a £1,000 deposit.

We were told that it could take six months to get the car but we are now 21 months on and still have no build date. I have written to Audi's head office to ask for help. It replied: "Our supply chains are being disrupted due to global factors, including issues with manufacturing and transport, stemming from Covid-19, as well as the situation in Ukraine."

I wholly accept component shortages but I can't believe that Audi, with all its clout, is still having major issues.

The dealer said that no progress had been made and that the build week still hadn't been allocated. So here we are, 21 months on with no sign of any delivery and our grandchildren can no longer fit in our current car. Audi is telling me to talk to the dealer while the dealer is telling me to talk to Audi.

The car was bought on our 45th wedding anniversary but it now looks like we will be lucky to have it before our 50th. Our two youngest grandchildren, who were not even born when we ordered it, can walk and talk, and yet we still have no car.



John Clarfelt, address supplied

Troubleshooter says

Car manufacturers have been grappling with supply chain issues since the pandemic amid a shortage of components, including semiconductor chips, which are crucial for modern vehicles. The pandemic triggered a spike in demand for computers, which also rely on these chips, and the issue has been exacerbated by the war in Ukraine, which was a leading supplier of some of the raw materials used to make them.

The situation is improving but waiting times for new cars can still be long.

Once a car has a build date, the manufacturer can give a timescale of when it will be delivered. Audi said that it keeps in touch with customers like you and suggests alternative options to reduce the delay, such as changing the vehicle specification.

Audi UK said that your case had already been highlighted within Audi a while back but it took my intervention for you to finally get a build date.

It said: "We are delighted to confirm a build week with Mr Clarfelt and would like to thank them for their understanding and co-operation during this time."

Your new Audi should arrive in October — almost two years after you ordered it — but you are excited to finally have a car that your grandchildren can fit into.

Literature
Politics
History
Philosophy
Biography

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Money

Unit trust and open-ended investment company prices

ALLIANZ GLOBAL INVESTORS
Inv Serv: 020 7065 1400 Helpline: 0800 317 573

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Gilt Yield A ‡@	206.01	...	-0.62	1.05
Strategic Bond Fund ‡@	136.80	...	-0.96	...
UK Corp Bond C ‡@	104.79	...	-0.77	3.87
UK Eqty C ‡@	6317.26	...	+49.77	...
UK Eqty Inc A ‡@	297.96	...	-3.38	4.75
UK Gwth A ‡@	7600.87	...	-79.06	...
UK Index A Inc ‡@	1423.81	...	-10.08	...
UK Mid Cap A ‡@	4654.61	...	-172.31	...

ARTEMIS FUND MGRS LTD
0800 092 2051
Authorised Inv Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Capital R Acc ‡@	2112.96	...	-32.39	...
Euro Opps R Acc ‡@	91.26	...	+1.71	...
Euro Opps R Inc ‡@	85.36	...	+1.59	...
European Growth R Acc ‡@	414.55	...	-8.24	1.77
Global Energy R Acc ‡@	39.04	...	-2.12	...
Global Growth R Acc ‡@	343.09	...	+0.75	...
Global Income R Acc ‡@	160.38	...	+0.34	...
Global Income R Inc ‡@	98.62	...	+0.21	...
Global Select R Acc ‡@	152.50	...	+0.25	...
High Income R Inc ‡@	61.16	...	-0.26	6.46
Income R Acc ‡@	503.65	...	-1.80	3.97
Income R Inc ‡@	216.20	...	-0.77	4.09
Monthly Dist R Inc ‡@	62.75	...	-0.18	5.05
Strategic Assets R Acc ‡@	89.67	...	-0.11	...
Strategic Bond R M Acc ‡@	94.66	...	-0.36	3.97
Strategic Bond R M Inc ‡@	48.70	...	-0.18	4.07
Strategic Bond R Q Acc ‡@	94.48	...	-0.37	4.07
Strategic Bond R Q Inc ‡@	48.45	...	-0.19	4.15
UK Growth R Acc ‡@	724.93	...	-9.02	2.13
UK Smaller Cos R Acc ‡@	1776.88	...	-1.00	1.54
UK Special Sits R Acc ‡@	701.82	...	-2.37	...

AXA FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD
Dling: 0845 602 1952 Priv Clients: 0845 777 5511

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Equity Inc ‡@	572.40	...	-2.10	4.43
Gilt Acc @	201.30	211.80	-1.50	1.08
Gilt Inc @	74.35	78.24	-1.00	1.09
Health Acc ‡@	3020.00	...	+39.00	...
Jap Smlr Co Ac @	62.56	66.09	-0.93	0.30
Managed Inc ‡@	138.30	...	-0.70	4.20
Monthly Inc Inc ‡@	201.60	...	-0.60	...
UK Growth Inc ‡@	205.80	...	-2.80	...
UK Select Opps Inc ‡@	1803.00	...	-22.00	...
UK Sml Cos Inc ‡@	249.30	...	-2.70	...

AXA FUND MANAGERS LTD
Admin & Enq 0117 989 0808
AXA Trusts

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Gen Acc ‡@	2101.00	...	-53.00	...
Gen Inc ‡@	1079.00	...	-32.00	...

UK/Global Investment Companies

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Euro Acc A ‡@	234.70	...	+0.10	...
Extra Inc Inc B ‡@	86.74	...	-1.81	1.16
Global Gwth Acc R ‡@	288.10	...	+1.20	0.52
Japan Acc A ‡@	162.30	...	+0.90	1.51
Pac Gwth Acc A ‡@	479.80	...	-18.60	2.30

CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD
08457 46 46 46

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
European Gwth ‡@	206.80	...	-2.40	1.69
Sus Leaders ‡@	767.90	...	-6.00	...
UK Growth ‡@	605.60	...	-3.70	...
UK Income ‡@	198.10	...	-1.70	5.04

CLOSE FUND MANAGEMENT LTD
0870 606 6402

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Beacon Inv ‡	84.88	...	+0.45	...

Dealing: 020 7426 6232

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Winchester ‡	3681.93	...	+18.40	0.99

COLUMBIA THREADNEEDLE INVESTMENTS
Enqs: 0870 601 6183 Dealing: 0870 601 6083
Share Class 1 - Retail

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Corporate Bd ‡@	49.99	...	-0.58	1.57
Emerging Mkts ‡@	116.50	...	-8.20	...
Euro Gwth & Inc 1 ‡@	1231.00	...	-17.00	...
Extra Inc Bond ‡@	43.62	...	-0.13	1.78
FTSE All-Shr Track ‡@	416.00	...	-3.10	...
Global Gwth SC1 ‡@	302.50	...	-1.60	...
High Inc Trst @	11.14	11.74	+0.06	5.41
Max Inc Bond ‡@	43.02	...	-0.10	3.90
Multi Man Caut ‡@	70.41	...	+0.79	3.18
Multi Man Distr ‡@	60.44	...	+0.45	3.37
North Amer ‡@	887.40	...	+5.10	...
Pacific Gwth ‡@	463.40	...	+1.70	0.04
Strategic Bd ‡@	193.20	...	-0.70	1.33
UK Equity ‡@	3446.00	...	+34.00	...
UK Gwth & Inc Acc 1 ‡@	658.50	...	+2.90	...
UK Gwth & Inc Dist ‡@	234.70	...	+1.00	...
UK Smaller Cos ‡@	961.60	...	-10.50	0.20

EDENTREE INV MGMT LTD
0800 358 3010

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Resp & Sust Sterling Bond ‡	82.44	...	-0.17	4.33
Resp & Sust Eurp Eq ‡	322.80	...	-4.60	2.06
Resp & Sust Glbl Eq ‡	335.60	...	-0.60	...
Resp & Sust Mgd Income ‡	116.10	...	-0.50	5.13
Resp & Sust UK Eq ‡	212.50	...	-2.00	...
Resp & Sust UK Equity Opps ‡	267.30	...	-3.20	...

FIDELITY INTERNATIONAL
Private Clnts 0800 414161 Broker Dlgs 0800 414181

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Amer Spec Sits ‡@	2305.00	...	+26.00	...
American ‡@	5656.00	...	+55.00	...
Euro Opps ‡@	565.30	...	-7.10	...
European ‡@	3480.00	...	-23.00	0.83
Extra Income ‡@	21.77	...	-0.09	6.06
Glob Spec Sits ‡@	5612.00	...	+5.00	...
Global Focus ‡@	2923.00	...	-5.00	...
International ‡@	149.50	...	+1.10	0.08
Japan ‡@	596.70	...	+3.10	0.74
Moneybldr Bal ‡@	41.46	...	-0.19	4.16
Moneybldr Glob	327.60	327.60	-1.90	0.21
Moneybldr Gwth ‡@	76.12	...	+0.20	...
Moneybldr Inc ‡@	28.06	...	-0.10	4.99
Moneybldr UK Ind ‡@	128.02	...	-0.86	...
Special Sits ‡@	4417.00	...	-46.00	...
Wealthbuilder	69.75	72.18	-0.11	...

HALIFAX INVESTMENT FUND MGRS LTD
01296 386 386
Authorised Inv Funds
Share Class `C

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Corporate Bond ‡@	31.65	...	-0.11	3.51
Ethical ‡@	113.40	...	-0.60	...
European ‡@	112.00	...	-1.30	1.94
Far Eastern ‡	111.30	...	+0.80	3.42
Fund of Inv Tst ‡@	135.30	...	-0.30	...
Intl Gwth ‡	131.80	...	+0.40	...
Japanese ‡	75.32	...	+0.47	1.41
North Amer ‡	160.50	...	+0.50	0.35
Smaller Cos ‡@	100.90	...	-1.60	1.62
Special Sits ‡@	48.35	...	-0.73	...
UK Equity Inc ‡@	89.95	...	-0.73	3.99
UK FTSE 100 IT ‡@	70.23	...	-0.01	...
UK FTSE All-S IT ‡@	78.39	...	-0.52	...
UK Growth ‡@	82.03	...	-0.50	...

HSBC GLOBAL ASSET MGMT (UK) LTD
Enq: 0845 745 6123 Dlg: 0845 745 6126 Mon-Fri 8-6
HSBC Index Tracker Investment Funds (OEIC)

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Amer Ind Acc ‡@	992.04	...	+3.39	1.24
Amer Ind Inc ‡@	786.26	...	+2.68	2.45
Euro Ind Acc ‡@	1192.12	...	-15.96	2.63
Euro Ind Inc ‡@	742.59	...	-9.94	2.70
FTSE 100 Ind Acc ‡@	276.34	...	-3.19	...
FTSE 100 Ind Inc ‡@	123.41	...	-1.42	...
FTSE 250 Ind Acc ‡@	280.74	...	-2.78	3.62
FTSE 250 Ind Inc ‡@	167.17	...	-1.65	3.07
FTSE All-S Acc ‡@	701.00	...	-4.74	...
FTSE All-S Inc ‡@	348.30	...	-2.35	...
Jap Ind Acc ‡@	150.46	...	+1.48	1.88
Jap Ind Inc ‡@	115.01	...	+1.12	1.92
Pac Ind Acc ‡@	489.63	...	-1.79	3.48
Pac Ind Inc ‡@	297.37	...	-1.09	3.61

HSBC Investment Funds (OEIC) - Retail Share Class

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Balanced Acc ‡@	243.93	...	-0.70	1.19
Balanced Inc ‡@	151.95	...	+3.09	...
Corp Bd Acc ‡@	262.65	...	-1.86	5.12
Corp Bd Inc ‡@	100.03	...	-0.71	3.56
Gilt & Fd Int Acc ‡@	497.78	...	+7.06	...
Gilt & Fd Int Inc ‡@	74.17	...	+1.05	...
Income Acc ‡@	702.12	...	-6.43	4.20
Income Inc ‡@	281.45	...	-2.58	4.34
Monthly Inc Acc ‡@	313.41	...	-1.33	3.21
Monthly Inc Inc ‡@	124.26	...	-0.94	4.09
UK Grth & Inc Ret B Acc ‡@	143.19	...	-1.36	...
UK Grth & Inc Ret B Inc ‡@	61.82	...	-0.59	...
UK Gth & Inc Acc ‡@	143.19	...	-1.36	...
UK Gth & Inc Inc ‡@	61.82	...	-0.59	...

HSBC Specialist Investment Funds (OEIC)

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
American Index Retail Acc ‡@	992.04	...	+3.39	1.24
American Index Retail Inc ‡@	786.26	...	+2.68	2.45
Asian Gth Acc ‡@	147.77	...	-0.67	...
Asian Gth Inc ‡@	130.99	...	-0.59	...
Chinese Eq Acc ‡@	513.81	...	-13.85	0.40
Chinese Eq Inc ‡@	434.76	...	-11.72	0.34
Euro Gth Acc ‡@	973.97	...	-10.00	...
Euro Gth Inc ‡@	817.05	...	-8.39	...

IGNIS ASSET MGMT
Dlg: 0141 222 8282

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
American Gth Inc @	322.55	340.42	+1.71	...
Balanced Growth @	262.17	276.69	-1.59	...
Balanced Growth Acc @	393.13	414.92	-2.40	...
Corporate Bond ‡@	99.69	...	-1.17	4.77
European Growth @	403.88	426.26	-1.19	...
European Growth Acc @	475.71	502.07	-1.47	...
Glob Gwth @	331.53	349.90	+2.16	0.12
Higher Yield @	83.98	88.64	+0.86	4.43
Higher Yield Acc @	275.04	290.28	+2.83	...
Japan @	49.06	51.78	-2.35	...
Managed @	130.89	138.15	+0.95	0.66
Managed Trust @	71.96	76.96	+1.59	...
Mngd Pfolio Inc @	95.54	100.84	+0.63	...
Pacific Grth @	498.71	526.34	-0.26	1.34
Smaller Comp @	756.24	798.14	-8.40	...
Smaller Cos @	628.94	663.79	-6.93	...

INSIGHT INVESTMENT FDS MANAGEMENT LTD
Client Servs: 0207 163 4000
Insight Investment Multi-Manager Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Well Bldr Bal Acc ‡@	96.05	...	+0.24	...
Well Bldr Gwth Acc ‡@	93.79	...	-0.32	...

INVESCO FUND MGRS LTD
Dling: 0800 085 8571 Inv Serv: 0800 085 8677
Brkr Serv: 0800 028 2121
INVESCO Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
UK Str Inc N/Trl ‡@	323.57	...	-2.78	...

INVESCO PERPETUAL Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Childrens Acc ‡@	454.95	...	-5.17	2.32
Corp Bond Acc ‡@	196.24	...	-0.90	3.23
High Income Inc ‡@	307.73	...	-1.36	4.06
Income & Grth Inc ‡@	403.20	...	-3.24	3.32
Income Inc ‡@	1218.65	...	-9.86	3.60
Money Acc ‡@	94.41	...	+0.09	...
Monthly Inc Plus Inc ‡@	89.50	...	-0.23	6.27
UK Aggressive Inc ‡@	154.28	...	+0.90	...

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
UK Growth Acc ‡@	898.12	...	-3.07	...
UK Sml Cos Eqty Acc ‡@	1258.40	...	-24.14	...
UK Sml Cos Gwth ‡@	82.54	...	-1.65	...

INVESTEC FUND MGRS

Broker Support and Dealing: 020 7597 1900

OEIC Series i,ii,iii, & iv

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
American A Acc ‡@	747.95	...	+3.62	...
Asia ex Japan A Acc ‡@	694.38	...	-6.89	...
Capital Accumulator A Acc ‡@	231.48	...	+8.50	...
Cautious Managed A Acc ‡@	371.05	...	-1.49	1.91
Cautious Managed A Inc ‡@	230.92	...	-0.93	1.93
Diversified Growth A Acc ‡@	122.41	...	-1.85	0.51
Diversified Growth A Inc ‡@	128.99	...	-1.95	0.01
Diversified Income A Acc ‡@	320.49	...	-1.20	2.89
Diversified Income A Inc ‡@	66.57	...	-0.25	4.32
Emerging Mkts Blended Debt A Acc ‡@	114.06	...	-0.06	...
Emerging Mkts Blended Debt A Acc Gross ‡@	125.82	...	+0.06	...
Emerging Mkts Blended Debt A Inc ‡@	63.20	...	-0.04	...
Emerging Mkts Equity A Acc ‡@	144.67	...	-0.03	...
Emrg Mkts Local Curr Debt A Acc ‡@	184.59	...	-0.58	5.12
Emrg Mkts Local Curr Debt A Inc ‡@	69.00	...	-0.22	7.00
Emrg Mkts Local Curr Debt Gross I Acc ‡@	220.49	...	-1.26	5.42
Enhanced Natural Resources A Acc ‡@	134.24	...	-4.54	...
Global Bond A Acc ‡@	139.30	...	+5.98	0.82
Global Bond A Inc ‡@	109.33	...	+4.52	0.82
Global Bond I Gross Inc ‡@	1167.00	...	+46.14	1.25
Global Dynamic A Acc ‡@	193.61	...	+6.88	0.47
Global Energy A Acc ‡@	170.97	...	-4.81	...
Global Equity A Acc ‡@	235.06	...	+1.16	0.13
Global Franchise A Acc ‡@	318.33	...	+0.96	...
Global Free Enterprise A Acc ‡@	1288.32	...	+0.42	...
Global Gold A Acc ‡@	177.53	...	-3.65	0.92
Global Special Situations A Acc ‡@	338.05	...	-0.94	...
Global Special Situations A Inc ‡@	260.96	...	-0.73	0.21
Managed Growth A Acc ‡@	263.72	...	-4.59	...
Monthly High Income A Acc ‡@	243.45	...	+2.02	3.54
Monthly High Income A Inc ‡@	63.17	...	+0.42	5.01
Multi-Asset Protector A Acc ‡@	166.91	...	-0.33	0.92
Strategic Bond A Acc ‡@	244.54	...	+0.50	1.96
Strategic Bond A Inc ‡@	119.47	...	+0.23	3.32
Target Return A Acc ‡@	102.03	...	+0.39	0.82
Target Return A Inc ‡@	87.63	...	-0.07	0.87
UK Alpha A Acc ‡@	2634.42	...	-16.33	...
UK Blue Chip A Acc ‡@	770.11	...	+5.67	...
UK Smaller Companies A Acc ‡@	4300.08	...	-30.00	...
UK Smaller Companies A Inc ‡@	3856.88	...	-26.91	...
UK Special Situations A Acc ‡@	1429.89	...	-10.97	...
UK Special Situations A Inc ‡@	512.57	...	-3.94	...



For ISIS Asset Mgmt see F&C Fd Mgmt Ltd (OEICS)

JANUS HENDERSON INVESTORS

Investors Serv: 0800 832 832 Dlng: 0845 946 4646

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
All Stks Credit A Inc ‡@	110.00	...	-0.50	2.50
Asian Div Inc U Trst Inc ‡@	73.32	...	+0.09	5.88
Cautious Man Fd A Acc ‡@	277.50	...	-2.00	3.25
Cautious Man Fd A Inc ‡@	134.40	...	-1.00	3.31
China Opp Fund A Acc ‡@	1058.00	...	-1.00	0.30
Emg Mkts Opps Fd A Acc ‡@	190.30	...	+1.80	0.77
Erpn Grth Fund A Acc ‡@	298.20	...	-3.70	1.16
Erpn Sel Opps Fd A Acc ‡@	2313.00	...	-33.00	0.86
Fix Int Mnthly Inc Fd Acc ‡@	27.75	...	-0.27	4.50
Global Equity Fund Acc ‡@	4296.00	...	+4.00	...
Global Equity Income A Inc ‡@	64.02	...	-0.05	3.34
Global Tech A Acc ‡@	3349.00	...	+7.00	...
Instl UK Idx Opps A Acc ‡@	113.15	...	-0.78	2.96
M-Asset Abs Ret A Acc ‡@	161.30	...	-0.50	0.82
M-Man Active Fd A Acc ‡@	256.70	...	-0.90	...
M-Man Inc Grth A Inc ‡@	142.70	...	-0.70	3.27
M-Man Inc Grth Fd A Acc ‡@	186.90	...	-0.80	3.14
Sterling Bond U Trst Acc ‡@	199.10	...	-0.80	2.20
Sterling Bond U Trst Inc ‡@	53.68	...	-0.23	2.23
Strategic Bond A Inc ‡@	97.23	...	-1.04	3.18
UK Abs Ret Fd A Acc ‡@	172.00	...	+0.10	0.65

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
UK Alpha Fund A Acc ‡@	130.80	...	-1.30	...
UK Irsh Sm Co Fd A Acc ‡@	742.50	...	+6.60	...
UK Property A Acc @	264.95	278.15	+0.38	...
UK Property A Inc @	105.80	111.07	+0.15	...
US Growth Fund A Acc ‡@	1902.00	...	+12.00	...

JP MORGAN ASSET MGMT

OEIC

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Asia A Acc ‡@	259.00	...	-1.80	...
Emerging Mkts ‡@	261.50	...	+1.30	...
Eur Dyn (ex-UK) A Acc ‡@	270.30	...	+8.30	...
Euro Smllr Cos ‡@	864.00	...	+24.20	...
Europe A Acc ‡@	1734.00	...	+62.00	...
Gbl Hi Yld Bd A Acc ‡@	117.30	...	+1.40	5.30
Gbl Hi Yld Bd A Inc ‡@	30.89	...	+0.38	5.45
Gl ex-UK Bd A Acc ‡@	257.40	...	-0.60	...
Gl ex-UK Bd A Inc ‡@	196.80	...	-0.40	...
Glb Fins A Acc ‡@	1077.00	...	+12.00	...
Global A Acc ‡@	2049.00	...	+25.00	...
Japan A Acc ‡@	516.80	...	+4.20	...
Multi-Man Tst A Acc ‡@	1268.00	...	+20.00	...
Multi-Man Tst A Inc ‡@	1127.00	...	+18.00	...
Nat Resources ‡@	951.20	...	+27.20	...
New Europe A ‡@	155.70	...	-73.10	2.11
Portfolio ‡@	295.60	...	+0.60	0.98
Stg Corp Bd A Acc ‡@	85.59	...	-0.61	1.14
Stg Corp Bd A Inc ‡@	48.30	...	-0.35	1.14
UK Act 350 A Acc ‡@	199.00	...	-1.30	...
UK Dynamic Acc ‡@	206.70	...	+6.80	...
UK Dynamic Inc ‡@	148.20	...	+4.90	...
UK Equity A Acc ‡@	401.90	...	-4.70	...
UK Equity A Inc ‡@	46.44	...	-0.54	...
UK Eqy & Bd Inc Acc ‡@	167.10	...	+2.30	3.41
UK Eqy & Bd Inc Inc ‡@	90.29	...	+0.88	3.50
UK Higher Inc A Acc ‡@	1132.00	...	+12.00	...
UK Higher Inc A Inc ‡@	531.30	...	+4.30	...
UK Sm Cos A Acc ‡@	563.30	...	+18.80	0.34
UK Str Eq Inc A Acc ‡@	197.90	...	+5.70	...
UK Str Eq Inc A Inc ‡@	100.50	...	+2.87	...
US A Acc ‡@	1036.00	...	+14.00	...
US Sm Cos A Acc ‡@	976.20	...	+26.90	...

JUPITER UT MGRS LTD
020 7581 3020

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Absolute Return ‡@	31.72	...	-0.05	...
Distribution and Growth ‡@	97.28	...	+0.38	2.67
Emg Euro Opps ‡@	145.34	...	-72.04	...
Euro Special Sits ‡@	448.27	...	-4.70	...
European ‡@	2899.39	...	-29.09	...
Financial Opps ‡@	711.20	...	-6.44	1.13
Income Trust ‡@	486.02	...	-1.69	4.59
Merlin Bal (Acc) ‡@	232.33	...	+1.07	3.65
Merlin Gwth (Acc) ‡@	553.55	...	+2.21	...
Merlin Inc (Acc) ‡@	340.28	...	+0.90	3.12
Merlin Wwide (Inc) ‡@	394.23	...	+0.89	...
UK Growth ‡@	255.52	...	+1.62	0.89
UK Special Sits (Inc) ‡@	206.29	...	-0.11	2.24

LEGAL & GENERAL (UT MGRS) LTD
Enquiries: 0870 050 0955 Dealing: 0870 050 0956

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Equity Acc @	2616.00	2639.00	+17.00	...
Equity Dist @	893.80	902.00	+5.60	...
Euro Ind Acc ‡@	527.50	...	-7.00	...
Euro Ind Inc ‡@	337.30	...	-4.50	2.49
Fixed Int Acc ‡@	128.30	...	-0.50	2.62
Fixed Int Dist ‡@	58.90	...	-0.71	2.65
Glob Gwth Acc @	243.90	243.90	+0.60	1.15
Glob Health Acc ‡@	108.70	...	-0.20	0.83
Glob Tech Acc ‡@	107.80	...	-1.00	0.04
Gwth Tst Acc @	106.00	106.50	-2.10	...
High Inc Acc ‡@	125.00	...	-0.30	5.57
Japan Ind Acc ‡@	73.27	...	+0.46	1.68
Pacific Ind Acc ‡@	195.70	...	-0.70	3.09
UK 100 Ind Acc @	180.90	180.90	+7.60	...
UK Active Opps Acc @	249.90	252.90	+1.80	...
UK Index Acc ‡@	343.00	...	-2.40	...

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
UK Index Dist ‡@	163.00	...	-1.10	...
US Ind Acc ‡@	868.60	...	-1.60	0.86
Worldwide Acc ‡@	337.50	...	-2.00	0.80

M & G SECURITIES
Enq: 0800 390 390 Dealing Line: 0800 328 3196
Authorised Inv Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Charifund Inc ‡	1382.76	...	-9.32	6.08

Sterling Class A Investment Funds 1

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Euro Smlr Cos Acc ‡	525.29	...	+6.31	...
Euro Smlr Cos Inc ‡	462.50	...	+5.55	...

Sterling Class A Investment Funds 2

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Extra Income Inc ‡	644.84	...	-4.20	5.90
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc ‡	71.22	...	-0.39	3.28
Gl Hi Yd Bd Inc ‡	38.86	...	-0.07	5.90
Index Linked Bd Inc ‡	107.97	...	-0.94	...
Index Trckr Inc ‡	74.03	...	-0.53	...
Short Dated Corp Bd Inc ‡	24.70	...	+0.07	3.48
UK Select A Inc ‡	2657.96	...	-20.09	...

Sterling Class A Investment Funds 3

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Corp Bd A Inc ‡	32.60	...	-0.14	4.34
Dividend Inc ‡	49.16	...	-0.60	6.47
Recovery A Inc ‡	102.52	...	-1.39	...
Sml Cos Inc ‡	316.30	...	-2.82	2.73

Sterling Class A Investment Funds 4

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Episode Allocation A Inc ‡@	138.26	...	-1.23	...

MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD
0808 005 5555

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
High Income	84.08	84.08	-0.57	4.60
High Income Acc	241.10	241.10	-1.60	4.47
UK 100 Comp Acc @	454.20	454.20	+0.20	2.98
UK 100 Cos @	218.30	218.30	+0.10	3.05
UK Select Pflo @	328.10	328.10	-0.70	3.29
UK Selection Port Acc @	690.40	690.40	-1.60	3.63
Worldwide Mgd Acc @	947.50	947.50	-0.10	1.54
Wwide Mgd @	548.60	548.60	-0.10	0.56

MORGAN STANLEY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD
Enquires: 0800 0961 962
The Morgan Stanley Funds (UK)
Class A Shares
Equity

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Dev Opp Fund F Acc ‡@	780.28	...	-2.63	...
Dev Opp Fund I Acc ‡@	775.44	...	-2.64	...
Glob Bal Inc F F Acc ‡@	934.64	...	-7.50	4.29
Glob Bal Inc F F Inc ‡@	849.77	...	-6.82	4.42
Glob Bal Inc F I Acc ‡@	932.88	...	-7.51	4.29
Glob Bal Inc F I Inc ‡@	848.18	...	-6.82	4.42
Glob Bal Sust F F Acc ‡@	937.34	...	-5.63	1.80
Glob Bal Sust F F Inc ‡@	910.70	...	-5.47	1.82
Glob Bal Sust F I Acc ‡@	935.81	...	-5.63	1.74
Glob Bal Sust F I Inc ‡@	910.43	...	-5.48	1.74
Glob Br Eq Inc Fund F Inc ‡@	1327.88	...	+2.76	4.02
Glob Br Eq Inc Fund I Acc ‡@	1870.27	...	+3.79	3.99
Glob Br Eq Inc Fund I Inc ‡@	1418.45	...	+2.88	4.10
Glob Br Fund I Acc (PH) ‡@	1633.79	...	-22.89	0.74
Glob Br Fund I Acc (PH) ‡@	14071.54	...	-29.85	0.76
Glob Br Fund I Inc (PH) ‡@	3836.31	...	-8.13	0.77
Glob Br Fund I Inc (PH) ‡@	1553.53	...	-21.75	0.75
Glob Ins Fund F Acc ‡@	587.72	...	+6.70	...
Glob Ins Fund F Inc ‡@	587.72	...	+6.70	...
Glob Ins Fund I Acc ‡@	584.28	...	+6.64	...
Glob Ins Fund I Inc ‡@	584.28	...	+6.63	...
Glob Sust Fund F Acc (PH) ‡@	1231.89	...	-16.87	0.52
Glob Sust Fund F Inc ‡@	1303.92	...	-2.05	...
Glob Sust Fund I Acc ‡@	1325.73	...	-2.12	...
Glob Sust Fund I Acc (PH) ‡@	1229.06	...	-16.85	0.38
Glob Sustain Fund F Acc ‡@	1333.85	...	-2.10	...
Stg Corp Bond F F Acc ‡@	118.74	...	-0.36	3.72
Stg Corp Bond F F Inc ‡@	91.59	...	-0.28	3.80
Stg Corp Bond F I Acc ‡@	2523.15	...	-7.66	3.46
Stg Corp Bond F I Inc ‡@	1291.89	...	-3.93	3.55
Sust Fixed Inc Opps F F Acc ‡@	936.01	...	-2.66	3.25
Sust Fixed Inc Opps F F Inc ‡@	881.41	...	-2.50	3.34
Sust Fixed Inc Opps F I Acc ‡@	930.90	...	-2.68	3.06
Sust Fixed Inc Opps F I Inc ‡@	881.01	...	-2.54	3.12
US Adv F F Acc ‡@	1563.17	...	+12.07	...
US Adv F F Acc (PH) ‡@	891.04	...	-6.28	...
US Adv F I Acc ‡@	1660.38	...	+12.72	...
US Adv F I Acc (PH) ‡@	930.84	...	-6.59	...

SANTANDER UNIT TST MGRS
08457 413002

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Bal Pfolio Inc ‡@	110.50	...	...	...
Bal Port Gwth Acc ‡@	230.00	...	-0.10	1.78
Equity Inc Inc ‡@	192.70	...	-1.20	5.25
N&P UK Gwth Inc ‡@	182.80	...	+6.00	...
Stkmkt 100 Tkr @	260.20	260.20	-1.90	...
UK Growth Acc ‡@	461.80	...	-1.90	...
UK Growth Inc ‡@	243.20	...	-1.00	...

SCOTTISH MUTUAL INV MNGRS LTD
0141 248 6100

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
European Inc	1777.00	1873.48	+12.14	...
Far Eastern Inc	584.69	617.09	+3.79	1.42
Intl Growth Inc	380.56	400.59	-0.13	0.75
Japanese Inc	41.85	41.85	+0.57	0.56
Mutual European	2762.93	2908.99	-73.67	...
Mutual Far Eastern	883.04	931.97	+3.89	1.17
Mutual North Am	1983.00	2092.88	+19.24	0.24
Mutual UK Eq	1419.40	1428.80	-5.79	...
Nth American Inc	1227.65	1295.67	+29.21	...
UK Equity Inc	562.23	593.38	-8.90	...

SCOTTISH WIDOWS UNIT TRUST MGRS
0845 300 2244
Authorised Inv Funds (OEICs)
OEIC A Class
Managed Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Bal Port A Acc ‡@	237.60	...	-0.10	0.01
Caut Port A Acc ‡@	207.10	...	+0.30	...
Caut Port A Inc ‡@	152.00	...	+0.30	...
Opps Port A Acc ‡@	280.20	...	-0.70	...
Prog Port A Acc ‡@	266.60	...	-0.50	...

Overseas Growth Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Eur Sel Gth A Acc ‡@	3325.00	...	-51.00	2.14

Tracker and Specialist Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
UK Trkr A Acc ‡@	384.30	...	+0.40	...
UK Trkr A Inc ‡@	190.30	...	+0.10	...

UK and Income Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Corp Bond A Acc ‡@	275.90	...	-1.10	2.82
Corp Bond A Inc ‡@	100.50	...	-0.40	2.86
Envir Invtr A Acc ‡@	366.50	...	-2.50	1.85
Hi Inc Bond A Ac ‡@	237.10	...	-2.10	...
Hi Inc Bond A Inc ‡@	68.07	...	-0.62	...
Hi Res A Acc ‡@	375.70	...	-0.90	3.98
Hi Res A Inc ‡@	113.60	...	-0.20	4.09
Safety Plus A Acc ‡@	40.49	...	-0.14	...
Strat Inc A Acc ‡@	186.00	...	-0.50	3.80
Strat Inc A Inc ‡@	79.77	...	-0.20	3.88
UK Gwth A Acc ‡@	195.80	...	...	...
UK Sel Gwth A Acc ‡@	2270.00	...	-14.00	...

OEIC B Class
Tracker and Specialist Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
UK Trkr B Acc ‡@	424.50	...	+0.40	...
UK Trkr B Inc ‡@	189.30	...	+0.20	...

UK and Income Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Corp Bond B Acc ‡@	370.70	...	+0.40	...
Corp Bond B Inc ‡@	136.30	...	+0.10	...
UK Gwth B Acc ‡@	205.60	...	-0.60	...
UK Sel Gwth B Acc ‡@	2481.00	...	+8.00	...

OEIC C Class
UK and Income Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
UK Gth C Inc ‡@	126.40	...	...	...
UK Sel Gwth C Acc ‡@	2598.00	...	+8.00	...

STANDARD LIFE INVESTMENTS
0845 279 3003
Investment Funds (OEIC) - Retail Shares

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
AAA Inc CAT Acc ‡@	87.57	...	-0.01	1.43
AAA Inc CAT Inc ‡@	48.68	...	-0.01	1.44
AAA Income Acc ‡@	95.57	...	...	1.84
Amer Eq Gth Acc ‡@	205.60	...	-2.30	...
Corp Bond Acc ‡@	152.60	...	-0.60	3.47
Corp Bond Inc ‡@	49.69	...	-0.20	3.55
Euro Eq Gth Acc ‡@	262.10	...	...	...
Glb Advtg CAT Acc ‡@	148.10	...	...	1.39
Glob Advtg Acc ‡@	195.50	...	...	1.36
Glob Eq Uncstrd Acc ‡@	169.90	...	+1.80	...
Higher Inc Acc ‡@	147.70	...	+0.60	4.55
Higher Inc Inc ‡@	44.35	...	+0.18	4.69
Japan Eq Gth Acc ‡@	127.40	...	-0.30	...
Managed Acc ‡@	357.60	...	-1.90	...
Select Inc Acc ‡@	91.51	...	-0.06	...
Select Inc Inc ‡@	51.26	...	-0.29	...
UK Eq Gth Acc ‡@	372.70	...	-0.20	...
UK Eq Hi Alpha ‡@	230.00	...	-0.10	...
UK Eq Hi Inc Acc ‡@	260.60	...	-2.80	4.66
UK Eq Hi Inc Inc ‡@	68.44	...	-0.73	4.82
UK Ethical Acc ‡@	194.20	...	-3.00	...
UK Opps Acc ‡@	234.40	...	-1.90	...
UK Opps Inc ‡@	211.70	...	-1.70	...
UK Smlr Cos Acc ‡@	712.20	...	-5.00	0.69

SVS BROWN SHIPLEY FUNDS
Enquiries:0141 222 1151

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Balanced A Acc ‡@	135.83	...	-0.57	...
Balanced A Inc ‡@	120.11	...	-0.51	...
Cautious A Acc ‡@	110.96	...	-0.37	1.93
Cautious A Inc ‡@	94.67	...	-0.32	1.95
Dynamic A Acc ‡@	335.74	...	-1.47	...
Dynamic A Inc ‡@	300.02	...	-1.31	...
Growth A Acc ‡@	343.74	...	-1.37	...
Income A Acc ‡@	246.64	...	-0.97	1.86
Sterling Bond Acc ‡@	242.37	...	+1.39	...
Sterling Bond Inc ‡@	97.00	...	+0.54	...

THREADNEEDLE INVESTMENTS
Client Serv: 0800 0683000
Intermediary Serv: 0800 0684000
Institutional Shares (Class 2) (500000 GBP)

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Threadneedle UK Eq Opps Ins Inc ‡@	127.75	...	-2.04	1.51

Retail Shares (Class 1)

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Threadneedle HY Bd Rtl Inc ‡@	36.51	...	-0.06	4.51
Threadneedle Mthly Etr Inc Rtl Inc ‡@	77.39	...	-0.58	3.68
Threadneedle SterlingCorpBd Ins Inc ‡@	51.69	...	-0.65	2.89
Threadneedle SterlingCorpBd Rtl Inc ‡@	51.63	...	-0.61	2.56
Threadneedle Stg Bd Ret Inc ‡@	41.00	...	-1.06	2.57
Threadneedle Strat Bd Ret ‡@	40.02	...	-0.20	4.01
Threadneedle UK Eq Inc Rtl Inc ‡@	96.42	...	-1.64	3.56
Threadneedle UK Growth & Inc Rtl Inc ‡@	90.50	...	-2.32	...
Threadneedle UK Insti Rtl ‡@	179.92	...	-0.44	1.90
Threadneedle UK Mthly Inc Rtl Inc ‡@	66.26	...	-0.65	4.36
Threadneedle UK Rtl Inc ‡@	132.20	...	-3.21	...
Threadneedle UK Smaller Coms Rtl Inc ‡@	335.87	...	-4.53	...

For Resolution see Ignis
TU FUND MANAGERS LIMITED

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
British	890.60	890.60	-6.60	0.96
European	210.70	219.40	+3.90	...

This list contains unit trusts and Oeics widely held by private investors. The weekly price change is based on a Friday-to-Thursday trading period.* Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return); † Ex dividend; ‡ Middle price; . . . No significant data. # Periodic charge deducted from capital; @ Exit charge

MORNINGSTAR® Data as shown is for information purposes only. No offer is made by Morningstar or this publication

Best buys

Data supplied by Moneyfacts compare.co.uk

Savings

Easy access (without introductory bonus)

Provider	Contact	Account	Min	AER
Santander	via website	Easy Access (3)	£1	5.20%
Shawbrook Bank	via website	Easy Access 36	£1,000	4.93%
cahoot	via website	Simple Saver	£1	4.90%
Monument Bank	via app	Easy Access	£25,000	4.85%
Chip	via app	Instant Access	£1	4.84%

Long-term fixed rates

Provider	Contact	Account	Min	AER
Hampshire Trust Bank	via website	Bond (14) (4 yr)	£1	5.85% F
Tandem Bank	via app	Fixed Saver (5 yr)	£1	5.85% F
Hampshire Trust Bank	via website	Bond (32) (5 yr)	£1	5.75% F
Cynergy Bank	via website	Fixed Bond (4 yr)	£1,000	5.75% F
Recognise Bank	via website	Fixed Rate (5 yr)	£1,000	5.75% F

Easy access cash Isas

Provider	Contact	Account	Min	AER
Cynergy Bank	via website	Online Isa (41)	£1	4.55%
Leeds BS	via website	Online Isa (64)	£1,000	4.55%
Virgin Money	via website	Easy Access Isa 2	£1	4.51%
Principality BS	via website	Online Isa	£1	4.50% A
Skipton BS	via website	Bonus Cash Isa 14	£1	4.50% A

Fixed cash Isas

Provider	Contact	Account	Min	AER
Zopa	via app	Smart Isa - Pot (3 Yr)	£1	5.56% F
Close Brothers Savings	via website	Fixed Isa (3 yr)	£10,000	5.55% F
Shawbrook Bank	via website	Isa Bond 49 (3 yr)	£1,000	5.51% F
Aldermore	via website	Fixed Isa (3 yr)	£1,000	5.51% F
Principality BS	via website	Fixed Isa (305) (3 yr)	£500	5.50% F

Lifetime cash Isas

Provider	Contact	Account	Min	AER
Moneybox	via website	Cash Lifetime Isa	£1	4.00% A
Bath BS	via website	Lifetime Isa	£1	3.79%
Beehive Money	via website	Homebuyer Lifetime Isa	£1	3.30%
Beehive Money	via website	Retirement Lifetime Isa	£1	3.30%
Skipton BS	via website	Online Lifetime Isa 4	£1	3.25%

Regular savings accounts

Provider	Contact	Account	Min Mntly	AER
NatWest	via website	Digital Regular Saver	£1	6.17% V
Royal Bank of Scotland	via website	Digital Regular Saver	£1	6.17% V
Saffron BS	via website	Small Saver	£1	5.75% V
Principality BS	via website	Regular Saver (33)	£1	5.50% F
Bank of Scotland	via website	Monthly Saver	£25	5.50% F

Pension annuities

Single life

Provider	Contact	Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Canada Life	0345 300 3199	£3,167.64	£3,489.24	£3,913.32
Legal & General	0345 765 4465	£3,109.32	£3,388.32	£3,816.72
Aviva	0800 015 5064	£3,060.41	£3,377.88	£3,904.68
Just	0345 302 2287	£3,094.44	£3,356.76	£3,820.20

Joint life

Provider	Contact	Male: Age 60 Female: Age 55	Age 65 Age 60	Age 70 Age 65
Canada Life	0345 300 3199	£2,858.64	£3,046.32	£3,338.04
Legal & General	0345 765 4465	£2,696.88	£2,911.08	£3,200.76
Just	0345 302 2287	£2,687.64	£2,862.96	£3,151.68
Aviva	0800 015 5064	£2,633.72	£2,848.98	£3,117.90

Based on a pension pot of £50,000

Mortgages

First-time buyer mortgages

Provider	Contact	Initial Rate	Period	Max LTV	Fee	Redmptn charge until
Lloyds Bank	0800 783 3534	6.56%F	to 30.11.25	95%	£999	To 30.11.25
Lloyds Bank	0800 783 3534	6.82%F	to 30.11.25	95%	-	To 30.11.25
West Brom BS	0800 298 0008	6.44%F	to 31.1.27	95%	£499	To 31.1.27
Yorkshire BS	0345 120 0874	5.69%F	to 30.11.28	95%	£995	To 30.11.28
Cumberland BS	01228 403141	5.99%F	to 1.11.28	95%	-	To 1.11.28

Remortgages

Provider	Contact	Initial Rate	Period	Max LTV	Fee	Redmptn charge until
first direct	0800 482448	5.89% F	for 2 years	60%	£490	1st 2 yrs
first direct	0800 482448	5.89% F	for 2 years	75%	£490	1st 2 yrs
first direct	0800 482448	5.79% F	for 3 years	75%	£490	1st 3 yrs
first direct	0800 482448	5.24% F	for 5 years	75%	£490	1st 5 yrs
Yorkshire BS	0345 120 0874	5.37% F	to 30.11.28	80%	£495	To 30.11.28

Short-term fixed-rate mortgages

Provider	Contact	Initial Rate	Period	Max LTV	Fee	Redmptn charge until
Barclays Mortgage	0333 202 7580	5.97%	to 31.12.25	60%	-	To 31.12.25
HSBC	0808 256 6876	6.04%	to 31.10.25	75%	-	To 31.10.25
TSB	03459 758 758	6.44%	to 31.12.25	90%	-	To 31.12.25
first direct	0800 482448	5.79%	for 3 years	75%	£490	1st 3 yrs
first direct	0800 482448	6.04%	for 3 years	90%	£490	1st 3 yrs

Long-term fixed-rate mortgages

Provider	Contact	Initial Rate	Period	Max LTV	Fee	Redmptn charge until
HSBC	0808 256 6876	5.16%	to 31.10.28	75%	£999	To 31.10.28
HSBC	0808 256 6876	5.34%	to 31.10.28	85%	£999	To 31.10.28
Yorkshire BS	0345 120 0874	5.40%	to 30.11.28	90%	£995	To 30.11.28
Nationwide BS	0800 302010	5.04%	for 10 years	85%	£999	1st 10 yrs
Nationwide BS	0800 302010	5.44%	for 10 years	90%	£999	1st 10 yrs

Discounted variable-rate mortgages

Provider	Contact	Initial Rate	Period	Max LTV	Fee	Redmptn charge until
Cumberland BS	01228 403141	5.39%	for 2 years	75%	£999	1st yr
Cumberland BS	01228 403141	5.54%	for 2 years	85%	£999	1st yr
Newbury BS	01635 555777	5.34%	for 3 years	75%	£600	1st 3 yrs
Tipton & Coseley BS	0800 833853	6.04%	to 30.9.26	90%	£999	To 30.9.26
Earl Shilton BS	01455 844422	6.54%	for 5 years	90%	£724	1st 5 yrs

Buy-to-let mortgages

Provider	Contact	Initial Rate	Period	Max LTV	Fee	Redmptn charge until
Leek Building Society	0808 169 6680	5.40% D	for 2 years	75%	£995	1st 2 yrs
Cambridge BS	0345 601 3344	6.09% D	for 2 years	80%	£199	1st 2 yrs
Post Office Money®	0800 077 8033	6.09% F	to 31.10.25	75%	£495	To 31.10.25
HSBC	0800 256 6876	5.39% F	to 31.10.28	60%	£1,999	To 31.10.28
Principality BS	0330 333 4002	5.55% F	to 30.11.28	70%	£1,395	To 30.11.28

Selections based on a combination of initial rate, fee and incentive available

National Savings & investments

Accounts and bonds

	Term	Min	AER	Interest
Growth Bonds 72	1 Yr Bnd	£500	6.20% F	Yearly
Income Bonds 72	1 Yr Bnd	£500	6.20% F	Monthly
Green Bonds 5	3 Yr Bnd	£100	5.70% F	Yearly

Tax-free products

	Term	Min	AER	Interest
Junior Isa	Age 18	£1	4.00%	Yearly
Direct Isa	None	£1	3.00%	Yearly

Personal loans

Fixed monthly repayment on £10,000 for 5 years

Provider	Contact	Rep APR	Amount per month	Total repaid
AIB	via website	5.6%	£190.83	£11,449.80
Santander	via website	5.8%	£191.71	£11,502.60
AA	via website	5.8%	£191.71	£11,502.60
Bank of Ireland UK	via website	5.8%	£191.71	£11,502.60

Borrowing rates and availability of products are subject to individual credit ratings.

Credit cards

Introductory rate for balance transfers

Provider	Contact	Product name	Transfer	Bal trans fee	Purch APR
Barclaycard	0800 151 0900	Platinum BT Visa	0% 1st 30 mths	3.45%	24.9%
M&S Bank	0800 997966	Transfer Plus Offer MC	0% 1st 28 mths	2.99%	23.9%
Santander	0800 912 3123	Everyday long-term MC	0% 1st 28 mths	3.00%	22.9%
Sainsbury's Bank	08085 40 50 60	Balance Transfer CC MC	0% 1st 28 mths	3.24%	23.9%
Barclaycard	0800 151 0900	Platinum BT Visa	0% 1st 27 mths	2.75%	24.9%

Introductory rate for purchases

Provider	Contact	Product name	Introductory Term	Purch APR
Barclaycard	0800 151 0900	Platinum All-Rounder Visa	0% 1st 22 mths	24.9%
HSBC	0345 7404 404	Purchase Plus CC Visa	0% 1st 20 mths	23.9%
M&S Bank	0800 997 996	Shopping Plus Offer MC	0% 1st 18 mths	23.9%
Bank of Scotland	0345 964 5645	0% Purchase & BT MC	0% 1st 17 mths	22.9%
Halifax	0345 944 4555	0% Purchase & BT MC	0% 1st 17 mths	23.9%

Cashback credit card

Provider	Contact	Product name	Purchase APR	Cashback
American Express	0800 917 8047	Platinum Cashback	36.3% Intro	0.75% - 1.25% standard 5%/3mth (max £125)
American Express	0800 917 8047	Plat Cashback Everyday	30.7% Intro	0.50% - 1.00% standard 5%/3mth (max £100)
Halifax	0345 944 4555	Cashback CC MC	22.9%	Standard 0.25% - 0.50% on spend over £1 a year
Lloyds Bank	0345 602 1997	Cashback CC MC	22.9%	Standard 0.25% - 0.50% on spend over £1 a year
Barclaycard	0800 151 0900	Rewards Visa	27.9%	Standard 0.25% on spend over £1 per year

Borrowing rates and products are subject to credit ratings. Terms apply to all cashback

Current accounts

Credit interest

Provider	Contact	Account name	Account Fee	AER
Halifax	0345 720 3040	Reward Current Account	None	£5 pm B
TSB	0345 975 8758	Spend & Save Plus	£3pm	£5 pm
Nationwide BS	0800 30 20 10	FlexDirect	None	5.00% A
Kroo Bank Ltd	kroo.com	Current Account	None	4.35%
Santander	0330 9 123 123	Edge Up Current Account	£5pm	3.50%

Authorised overdrafts

Provider	Contact	Account name	Account Fee	EAR	Usage Fee
Starling Bank	via website	Current Account	None	15.0%	£0
first direct	0345 600 2424	1st Account	None	39.9%	£250
Virgin Money	0800 678 3654	M Plus Account	None	19.9%	£0
Lloyds Bank	0800 015 4000	Club Lloyds	£3pm	27.5%	£50
TSB	0345 975 8758	Spend & Save Plus	£3pm	39.9%	£100

Current account interest rates paid up to a specified level, terms may apply to qualify for rates shown.
A = Introductory rate for a limited period. B = Paid net of income tax. D = Discounted variable rate.
F = Fixed rate. V = Variable rate.
All savings rates AER variable unless stated otherwise. Methods of opening and operating accounts vary. Rates and terms subject to change without notice. No liability accepted for any loss arising from the use of this information. Seek expert advice if not a financial professional. Visit Moneyfactscompare.co.uk for full details.

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Money Equity prices

Dividend yields Please note that the information in the dividend yields column has been suspended due to technical problems at Morningstar, the provider.
12-month high and low High/low prices for UK equities are based on closing prices. Investment trust high and low prices are based on intra-day figures.

Automobiles & parts

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
395⅞	89½	Aston Martin Lag	335	+ 9⅜	...	-2.0

Banking & finance

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
236⅝	133	**Abrdn**‡	156½	...	...	3.4
9¾	6⅛	Acuity RM♦	7⅛	- ¼	...	...
2490	1881½	**Admiral**‡	2358	- 5	...	12.0
49¾	16	ADVFN♦	16	...	...	2.8
390	255⅛	AJ Bell	291	- 1	...	27.2
27666⅝	21468⅞	Aon Corpn	26891⅝	+ 109¼	...	65.6
1075	645	Arbuthnot Bkg♦‡	950	- 5	...	21.0
12½	7½	Argo Group♦	7½	...	...	3.4
286⅜	180⅞	Ashmore	188½	- 3½	...	6.4
1327⅝	1146¾	Aus New Z	1276⅜	+ 3	...	9.9
462⅜	369⅛	**Aviva**‡	369⅛	- ⅜	...	48.5
341½	211¾	Banco Santander	293½	+ 4½	...	7.0
3635	1944	Bank of Georgia	3395	+ 30	...	10.5
189⅝	133⅞	**Barclays**‡	148⅛	+ ¼	...	3.6
¼	...	Blue Star Capital♦	...	...	...	2.3
418	283	BP Marsh&Ptnrs♦	357	...	...	9.8
15⅛	6¾	Braveheart Inv♦	12½	+ ¼	...	0.3
515	513	Brewin Dolphin	515	+ 1	...	28.1
303⅜	166⅞	Bridgepoint‡	191	+ 2⅜	...	11.9
52½	24½	Cenkos Secs♦	29	...	...	5.9
321	262½	Chesnara	268	+ ½	...	14.8
52¾	9	City of Lon Gp♦	10	+ 1	...	-0.6
470	343½	City Lon Inv Gp	386	+ 2	...	9.0
1131	796½	Close Bros	820½	- 1½	...	6.1
268	102⅜	CMC Markets	102½	+ 1¾	...	3.1
1024¾	614⅜	Commerzbk	797¾	+ 14¼	...	40.8
1058⅝	651½	Deutsche Bk	828¼	+ 5¾	...	9.7
235¼	133⅞	Direct Line Ins	181½	+ 7⅝	...	7.5
78⅛	44⅞	EFG-Hermes Hldg	48¾	- 3⅛	...	3.1
195	122½	EPE Special Opps♦	157½	+ 5	...	8.8
1216⅛	840¾	FBD	1111¼	...	...	4.9
70	65	Fiske♦	65	...	...	11.5
75	53½	Frenkel Topping♦	57½	+ 1	...	33.4
990	602	Georgia Capital	990	- 2	...	2.7
1065	670	Gresham House♦	1065	+ 2½	...	42.7
506	394	H&T Group♦‡	410	+ 5	...	13.1
55½	33	Hansard Global	41	- ⅜	...	14.1
949½	739⅜	**Hargreaves Lansdown**	739⅜	+ 3⅜	...	13.1
175	117½	Helios Under♦	127½	...	...	...
654⅞	442⅛	**HSBC**‡	584⅜	- ¼	...	12.7
836½	632½	IG Group	658	+ 6½	...	6.7
883	500	Impax♦	524	...	...	17.2
1511½	953⅛	Intermed Capital	1332	- 1	...	7.6
128	64⅜	IPF‡	120	+ 1	...	6.7
168	121½	International Public P'ship	129	+ ⅜	...	16.5
546⅜	351½	Investec	464⅜	+ 2⅛	...	11.6
340	253	Investment Co	335	...	...	12.0
75⅜	52	IP Group	57¾	- ⅜	...	2.1
195	94	Jarvis Securities♦‡	105	- 2½	...	7.5
151	83¾	Jupiter Fund Mgmt	93½	- 2⅝	...	3.4
95¼	55⅞	Just Group‡	75	+ 1⅝	...	...
664	461¾	Lancashire Holdings‡	575	+ 3	...	...
265¾	204	**Legal & Gen**‡	216½	+ 3	...	6.6
...	...	Liberty Group	502⅝	- 2⅝	...	...
1290	587½	Liontrust	618½	+ 4½	...	7.7
54	31	Livermore Invs♦	36½	...	...	2.3
53⅞	39	**Lloyds Banking Group**‡	41¼	+ ¼	...	5.7
32½	19⅜	LMS Capital‡	19½	...	...	8.5
8774	7104	**Lond Stk Ex Gp**‡	8264	+ 88	...	84.5
219¼	159⅞	**M&G**	193½	- ⅛	...	60.5
286¾	202	Man‡	205⅞	+ 2⅜	...	8.2
29	8¼	Manx Fin♦	22	...	...	11.1
2¾	1	Marechale Cap♦	1⅝	...	...	0.8
15757⅝	11956¼	Marsh McLn	15630⅞	- 43¼	...	32.5
670	530	Mattioli Woods♦	605	...	...	...
18½	7½	Metal Tiger♦	9	+ ¾	...	3.5
153⅛	69	Metro Bank	102	+ 2½	...	-0.7
1673⅛	1285¾	Nat Aust Bk	1466¾	+ 3	...	14.5
309⅞	212⅜	**NatWest**‡	224	- ½	...	8.8
341	170⅜	Numis♦	334½	...	...	6.8
568½	324¾	Onesavings Bank‡	324¾	+ 3	...	4.3
611	377½	PayPoint‡	564	+ 6	...	17.6
3⅛	¼	PCF Group♦	⅞	+ ¼	...	-0.4
647	504¾	**Phoenix**	512⅛	+ 5⅛	...	-5.9
1371½	797½	**Prudential**‡	896½	- 6¾	...	14.5
2¼	⅞	Quantum Blockchain♦	1¼	...	...	-7.1
109⅜	71¼	Quilter‡	87⅞	...	...	62.7
97	44	Randall & Quilter♦	53⅜	+ 1⅜	...	79.5
2220	1570	Rathbone Grp	1712	...	...	13.2
¾	½	RiverFort Global Opps♦	⅝	...	...	1.8
2050	1395	Rockwood Strategic	1835	...	...	2.6
2570	1905	S & U	2220	+ 70	...	10.4
1⅝	⅜	Sancus Lending Grp♦	⅝	...	...	-0.2
50	40	Schroder REIT	40⅞	- ¼	...	4.3
506¾	358¾	**Schroders**‡	403¼	- ½	...	1.8
1304½	849⅛	**St James Place**‡	849⅛	+ 1⅜	...	16.1
790¾	519½	**Stand Chart**‡	705½	+ ⅜	...	15.8
8½	6½	Starvest♦	6½	...	...	-1.0
60	24½	STM Group♦‡	60	...	...	23.1
4082⅞	3164⅝	Sun Life Can	3866⅜	- 11¾	...	9.8
9	5½	Tavistock Inv♦	5¾	...	...	0.9
2850	1634	TBC Bank Group‡	2745	+ 45	...	8.0
12¼	3½	Tern♦	4½	+ ⅛	...	3.3
57	48	Thames Ventures VCT‡	48	...	...	6.4
29¼	15¼	Time Finance♦	25½	- ¾	...	15.5
243¾	103	Vanquis‡	117	+ 7½	...	2.1
1245	900	Volvere♦	1125	- 20	...	...
34½	7	WH Ireland♦	7	...	...	3.9
30	23	Walker Crips Grp	23	...	...	65.7
3887⅛	2903⅝	Wells Fargo	3269⅜	+ 31⅛	...	8.9
1252	1023⅝	Westpac	1083⅞	+ 2½	...	14.6
31	21½	Worsley Investors Ltd	27⅞	...	...	87.1
41101¼	34961⅝	Zurich Fincl	36914⅛	- 233½	...	14.4

Investment companies

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	Dis(-) or Pm
2036	1044½	**3I Group**	1993½	+ 7½	...	8.9
346	276⅝	3i Infrastructure	303½	...	...	-9.5
1428	1066	Aberforth Smlr	1216	+ 10	...	-13.9
99⅜	78	abrdnDivInc&Grwth	83⅜	+ ⅛	...	-26.9
1057½	884	Alliance	1048	...	...	-6.1
457	338¼	Asia Dragon Tr	358	- 1	...	-16.0
220	171½	Athelney Trust	195	...	...	-7.9
206½	171¾	AVI Global Trust	198	+ ⅜	...	-10.8
330	206¼	Baillie Gifford Ch Gr	214	- 2	...	-12.5
102⅛	73½	BaillieGifford Eu Gr	85⅜	- ½	...	-13.5
829	692	Baillie Gifford JpnTr	726	- 10	...	-7.9
163¾	125⅜	Baillie Gifford SN	134⅜	- 1½	...	-12.3
180¾	139⅜	Baillie Gifford UK Gr	156¾	- ½	...	-13.5
98	64	Bal Comm Prop	70¾	+ ⅜	...	-39.9
107	90⅞	Bankers Inv Trst	97⅜	...	...	-12.9
5232	334	BH Macro	351	+ 1	...	-12.0
1048	745⅜	Biotech Growth	795	+ 10	...	-7.5
149½	108	BlckRck Com Inc	117	+ 2⅜	...	-11.5
148	123	BlckRck Fro Inv	142½	+ 1	...	-9.0
566	396	BlckRck Grt Euro	526	+ 2	...	-5.4
206	164	BlckRck Inc & Gwth	181½	- 1½	...	-9.9
449	331½	BlckRck Latin Am	385	- 5	...	-13.5
1450	1162	BlckRck Smlr	1264	+ 2	...	-13.4
215	178	BlckRck Sustain Amer	180¾	+ ¼	...	-8.6
670	477⅞	BlckRck Throgmorton	557	+ 2	...	-8.2
774	538	BlckRck Wld Min	580	+ 2	...	-2.5
1321⅜	1115	Brown Adv US sm	1167½	- 2½	...	-17.1
1115	888	Brunner	1065	+ 2½	...	-12.8
4065	3015	Caledonia Inv	3505	- 5	...	-30.8
432	366½	City of Lon IT	391½	+ 1	...	1.2
121	60	Crystal Amber Fd♦	63	+ 1	...	-36.2
534	384	CT Priv Eq Ord	495	- 16	...	-24.7
96	72	CT Property	73½	- 1¼	...	-14.5
317	256	CT UK Cap&Inc	284	+ 4	...	-4.3
93	77	CT UK HIT B	79	- 1	...	-4.8
89	71	CT UK HIT	79½	- ½	...	-4.8
356	294	CT UK HIT UNIT	311	- 4	...	-6.3
590	476	Dunedin Entp	560	+ 2½	...	-10.1
690	537	Edinburgh IT	653	+ 3	...	-9.4
195⅜	135⅛	Edin Wwide	150¾	- ⅛	...	-16.5
336	273⅛	EP Global Opp	291	...	...	-19.5
97¾	74½	European Assets	86⅞	+ ⅜	...	-8.0
817	608	European Opp Trust	799	+ 3	...	-10.6
992	825⅝	**F&C Invest Tr**	870	+ 4	...	-11.3
536	413½	Fidlty Asian Val	516	- 4	...	-5.1
299⅜	181⅞	Fidelity China Sp	210	- ½	...	-10.8
649⅞	552⅝	FdltyEmrgMkt	590¾	- 1¾	...	-13.5
362	258½	Fidelity European Trust	348	+ 1	...	-4.8
187	154	Fidlty Jap Tru	167¾	- 2¼	...	-11.5
293½	232	Fidlty Spec Val	267	...	...	-8.6
923	760⅛	Fins Gwth & Inc	870	+ 7	...	-4.4
107⅞	68⅛	GCP Infrastructure	72⅛	- ¾	...	-33.4
39	24	Gldn Prosp Prc Mtl	27⅛	...	...	-14.6
168½	130⅜	Greencoat UK Wind	138⅝	...	...	-16.0
201¼	161	Hansa Investment	182	+ 1	...	-41.4
193⅞	160	Hansa Inv Co 'A'	182	...	...	-42.5
2450	1900	Hbrvest Glbl Pt Eq	2305	...	...	-40.3
166¾	120½	Hend Euro Foc	161	+ ½	...	-10.4
181	137¼	Hend High Inc	162¾	+ 2¼	...	-1.8
907	674¼	Hend Smlr	711	+ 1	...	-13.0
1966	1540	Herald	1754	+ 2	...	-14.9
419⅝	316	HgCapital Trust	389	+ 2½	...	-17.6
179	119⅝	HICL Infra	128⅛	+ ⅜	...	-22.2
500	216	Highbridge Tactical	425	...	...	61.1
1223¾	928	ICG Ent Tr	1128	+ 2	...	-39.7
462½	373⅛	Impax Env Mkts	390	- 2½	...	-5.0
374	280	Invesco Asia Tr	320	- 3	...	-10.2
173	141	Invesco Bond Inc	162½	+ 1	...	0.7
155⅜	111	IPST Bal	117	- 2	...	-22.3
258½	200	IPST Gbl Eq	244	...	...	-12.1
101	88	IPST Managed	93½	...	...	-15.0
177	141	IPST UK Eq	148½	- 6½	...	-13.2
478	373½	IP UKSmallerCos	416	+ 1	...	-8.3
814	657½	JPM American	805	+ 3	...	-1.6
402¼	294½	JPM Asia Gro & Inc	347	...	...	-8.8
419	237½	JPM China	245½	- 2½	...	-10.9
722	624	JPM Claverhs	652	...	...	-5.0
804	514	JPMorgan Emerg E & ME & Africa	648	- 1¾	...	186.1
120⅜	91	JPM Em Mkts	106½	...	...	-7.0
449	339	JPM Euro disc	380½	- 1	...	-13.0
142½	108	JPM GEMI	127	+ 1	...	-10.9
481	394	JPM GG&I	472½	+ 1	...	1.5
898	764	JPM Indian	858	+ 6	...	-18.4
347	297	JPM Jap Sml Co	314½	- 4½	...	-12.2
521	416	JPM Japan	480	- 5½	...	-8.5
974¾	735	JPM Mid Cap	878	+ 4	...	-13.6
98	85¼	JPM Multi-asset G&I	91¾	+ ¼	...	-4.1
303	230	JPM Smllr Co	262	- 1	...	-13.1
228½	180½	Keystone Positive Change Inv plc	212	+ 1	...	-15.0
871	649	Law Debenture	807	+ 4	...	2.0
135	99	Lowland	111¼	- ¼	...	-13.4
223	156¾	Majedie	183¼	+ ¾	...	-25.2
358	272⅛	M Currie Port	325	...	...	-2.1
104½	85	Marwyn Val In	91½	...	...	-45.6
222	158¼	Mercantile IT	198¾	+ 2	...	-13.4
606	480	Merchants	535	+ 3	...	0.9
733¾	639¾	Mid Wynd	713	+ 3	...	-2.1
1073	906	Monks Inv Tst	964	+ 2	...	-13.8
151⅛	104⅛	Montanaro Eur Sml	127⅛	- ½	...	-12.0
886	715	Murray Income Trust	819	+ 1	...	-8.5
275¾	225½	Murray Int	241	...	...	-6.3
80⅛	70⅛	Nb Global Floating	73	...	...	-8.3
384	326	Pacific Assets	366½	+ ½	...	-7.4
285	229⅛	Pantheon Int	283	+ ½	...	-37.5
3115	2565	**Pershing Sq**	3046	+ 8	...	-35.2
492	458⅞	Personal Assets	465	- ½	...	-1.0
2340	1697½	Polar Cap Tech	2260	...	...	-13.7
196	115	Prem Glb & Inf	121	...	...	-8.6
148⅛	103½	Renewables Inf	107⅞	- ⅛	...	-18.3
2400	1784	RIT Cap Ptnr	1914	+ 4	...	-20.4
736	510	Riverstone	605	+ 5	...	-53.4
457	366½	Schroder TotRt	400	- 3	...	-5.9
549¾	446	Schrd Asia Pac	491½	+ ½	...	-11.2
324	254½	Schrod Inc Gwth	267½	+ 1½	...	-9.2
240	190	Schrod Jap Gwth	236½	- 1½	...	-9.7
626	454	Schrod UKMid	536	+ 2	...	-13.2
19⅛	11½	Schroder UK PP Tr	13	...	...	-48.5
543	434	Scot American	501	+ 1	...	1.5
856¾	604¾	**Scot Mtge**	685⅛	+ 1⅛	...	-19.2
239¼	205	Secs Tst Scot	218½	+ ½	...	-1.7
94¾	71	Sequoia Eco	83	+ ⅛	...	-11.1
249½	195⅛	Temple Bar	231	+ 2	...	-6.1
166	130	Tplton Emg Mkt	148	+ ⅜	...	-13.8
162¾	122	The Glbl Smaller	143¾	+ ⅜	...	-13.0
¼	...	Tiger Royal and Inv♦	⅛	...	...	66.6
362½	254	TR Property	281	+ ½	...	-9.2
74	64⅜	Troy Inc&Gth	69⅞	+ ⅞	...	-2.5
200	122	Utilico Ord	131	...	...	-36.5
234	197½	Utilico Emerging Mkt	220½	+ 1½	...	-14.7
703	500	Vietnam Ent Inv	623	+ 2	...	-18.7
237	199¾	Witan	223	- ½	...	-10.0
349½	296	Ww Health	311	+ 1	...	-9.1



Construction & property

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
183½	135	Alumasc♦	162½	+ 2	...	8.2
11⅛	8¾	Aseana Props	10	+ ¾	...	-4.9
64¾	43⅛	Assura‡	44½	- ⅛	...	8.9
2¾	1¾	Aukett Swanke♦	1¾	...	...	-2.6
393⅜	294½	Balfour Beatty	322¾	+ ⅛	...	15.3
506⅜	323⅜	**Barratt Devs**	436¼	- ⅝	...	6.8
2500	1586½	Bellway	2122	+ 4	...	6.3
4504	3165	**Berkeley**‡	3972	...	...	10.3
1290	987	Big Yellow Group	1024	- 11	...	6.7
455	181½	Billington Hldgs♦	350	...	...	28.4
277	200	Boot (Henry)	209	+ 7	...	11.1
471⅜	297¼	Br Land	311	- ½	...	42.6
167½	120	Caledonian Tst♦	160	...	...	31.9
61⅜	43¼	Cap & Regnl‡	55	- 1	...	-0.4
2550	2350	Cardiff Prop	2450	...	...	26.6
25	1¾	Carecapital♦#	1⅞	...	...	-0.2
155	106	Clarke T‡	138	+ 1	...	9.9
261	191⅝	Countryside Partner	229¾	+ 14	...	16.7
28	6	Craven House♦	13⅛	- ⅜	...	-0.2
4674	2858½	**CRH**	4369	+ 6	...	18.1
2726	1812	Derwent London‡	1841	- 5	...	8.2
4½	3⅛	Dolphin Capital♦	4½	...	...	-3.1
28	19¼	First Prop♦	19¼	...	...	...
45½	34½	Fletcher King♦	36½	...	...	...
42	27¼	Foxtons Group‡	35	- 2⅜	...	...
210	145	Galliford Try	195¾	+ ⅛	...	43.5
357½	252½	Genuit Group‡	318½	- 2½	...	19.3
490	335	Gleeson (MJ)	375	+ 2	...	5.8
988⅝	630½	Grafton	887¼	...	...	10.2
275⅛	205⅜	Grainger	234	+ ½	...	14.5
603½	382¾	Great Portland	416⅜	- 1⅛	...	-5.2
30½	17⅛	Hammerson‡	24⅞	...	...	-2.6
136½	101	Harworth Gp	101	- 2	...	3.4
630	400	Heath (Samuel)♦‡	400	...	...	8.2
389	222½	Helical PLC	222½	+ 3½	...	5.3
1025	750	Highcroft Invs	845	...	...	3.6
201⅛	135¾	Ibstock‡	145	...	...	18.8
224	176	James Halstead♦	198	- 2	...	21.0
856	591	Keller‡	770	- 7	...	8.9
6522¾	3850½	Kingspan Group	6214⅛	- 221⅞	...	24.4
743⅛	485¼	**Land Sec**‡	577⅜	+ ⅜	...	...
91	58	Life Science Reit	65	...	...	...
22	10½	Lon & Assoc	10¾	...	...	-1.4
212½	161¾	Londonmetric Property‡	173⅛	+ ⅛	...	3.6
62	45¼	Macau Prop Op	50½	- ¼	...	-6.5
366½	225⅜	Marshalls	264	- 2⅜	...	9.6
101	74	Michelmersh♦	89½	...	...	14.2
1980	1392	Morgan Sindall	1980	+ 20	...	9.6
12500	10550	Mountview	10550	- 100	...	13.1
94½	68¼	NewRiver REIT	81	- ⅛	...	-2.8
260	195	Palace Capital	260	+ 7½	...	12.4
335	260	Panther Securities♦	275	- 10	...	2.4
1531	968½	**Persimmon**	1018	+ 2	...	4.1
3⅝	1⅜	Pires Investments♦	1½	...	...	-3.3
65	30	Plaza Cent	30	...	...	...
138⅛	88¾	Primary Health Properties	92⅝	...	...	9.4
35¼	28¼	Real Estate Invs♦	29	- ½	...	3.8
545	372½	Redrow	469	+ ¾	...	5.8
1074	794	Safestore	805½	+ 1½	...	4.5
1055	763½	Savills‡	903½	- 11½	...	9.0
6¼	5⅜	Secure Property♦	6	+ ⅝	...	15.8
946½	694	**Segro**‡	726⅜	- ⅛	...	2.1
44⅜	27¾	SIG	35	+ ¾	...	...
63	37⅜	SigmaRoc♦	56¾	- 1⅛	...	...
91¾	66½	Sirius Real Estate	89	- ⅛	...	6.9
173½	160½	Smart (J)	166	...	...	4.5
50	27	Steppe Cement♦	27	...	...	6.2
128¼	85	**Taylor Wimpey**	113	+ ¼	...	7.4
170½	121½	Town Centre	123	- ½	...	4.8
1082½	738	Travis Perkins	813⅜	+ 2¾	...	7.9
170	123½	Tritax Big Box Reit	138⅛	- ⅞	...	2.5
82	50¾	Tritax Eurobox‡	52½	...	...	...
318	184½	Tyman‡	302	+ ½	...	11.9
1070	791½	**Unite**	920½	+ 9	...	10.7
851	519½	Vistry Group	800	+ 4	...	7.0
157	77½	Warehouse REIT‡	81¼	+ ½	...	1.9
537	343⅜	Workspace Grp	486⅜	+ ½	...	-7.2
700	622½	Wynnstay Props♦	690	...	...	5.0

Consumer goods

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
5	1	Agriterra♦	1¼	...	...	-0.1
39½	25½	Airea♦	31½	...	...	11.6
880	652	Anglo-Eastern‡	738	+ 10	...	6.7
297½	147½	Animalcare♦	175	...	...	...
2114	1237	**AB Foods**	1984	+ 16½	...	32.7
121	86	Bakkavor Group	101	...	...	10.5
561	432	Barr (AG)	488½	- 7½	...	17.3
3⅞	¾	Bidstack Group♦	¾	...	...	-0.6
39	24½	Brand Architekts♦	28½	+ ½	...	-1.2
3509	2484½	**Brit Amer Tob**	2592	+ 10½	...	8.7
936	707½	Britvic	874½	+ 1½	...	19.8
2641	1636	**Burberry**	2126	+ 31	...	18.3
183¾	123⅜	C&C Grp	136¾	+ ¾	...	-8.1
5½	1	Capital Metals♦	1	...	...	-0.2
149¾	92	Carr's Grp‡	129	...	...	15.9
525	255	Character Grp♦	267	...	...	4.7
1640	1070	Churchill China♦	1295	- 35	...	...
2565	1840	**Coca Cola HBC**	2257	+ 33	...	18.0
840	610	Colefax♦	750	+ 20	...	13.2
3458	2586	Cranswick	3458	+ 52	...	18.2
329	164	Devro	329	...	...	17.8
3857½	3147½	**Diageo**‡	3200	+ 25	...	24.6
1¼	⅜	Distil♦	½	...	...	12.5
908	670	Evans (M.P.)♦	766	+ 16	...	6.5
103½	77	Finsbury Food♦	91	...	...	10.8
11700	5690	Games Workshop‡	10520	+ 120	...	28.9
1326⅜	900⅞	Glanbia‡	1307	+ 31¾	...	32.2
92¼	60¾	Greencore	79½	+ ½	...	15.9
348	214	Headlam	230	+ 4	...	9.9
973	500	Hilton Food	710	+ 23	...	14.8
29	16	Hornby♦	17	...	...	80.9
2185	1695	**Imperial Brands**‡	1756	+ 11½	...	5.8
1½	1	J Lewis Hford♦	1¼	+ ¼	...	7.9
8605½	6983⅞	Kerry Gp	7238⅞	- 70¾	...	20.0
44⅜	19	McBride	38⅞	...	...	-6.9
295	200	Mulberry Group♦	200	...	...	8.2
1155	958	Nichols♦‡	1055	+ 5	...	...
232	143	Norcros	154	...	...	4.8
373⅛	270¼	Origin Ents♦	284	- 7⅝	...	8.9
11⅝	...	Pittards♦#	5⅜	+ 1	...	2.5
512½	282	Portmeirion♦	293	...	...	12.4
⅞	½	Provexis♦	⅝	...	...	0.3
221	153¾	PZ Cussons	156⅛	+ ⅛	...	18.0
125	50¾	REA	52¼	+ 1¼	...	-4.1
2	⅞	Real Gd Fd♦	1⅛	...	...	0.1
320	200	Tandem♦	210	...	...	3.0
724	511	Treatt	511	+ 1	...	20.5
3¼	1¾	Ukrproduct Gp♦	2½	...	...	-1.6
5051	4451	Unilever (NV)	...	...	...	...
4443½	3838	**Unilever**	4042½	+ 23	...	20.7
722	400	Victoria♦	531	+ 8	...	...

Engineering

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
...	...	Ass Br Eng#	15	...	...	-3.5
1200	631	Avon Rubber‡	635	+ 11	...	...
394⅛	268½	Babcock	383¾	- 11⅛	...	-2.3
1032	714	**BAE**	1027½	- 1½	...	18.7
2150	1200	Braime A N/V♦	1475	...	...	16.6
1850	1650	Braime Group♦	1850	+ 50	...	20.8
580	470	Caffyns	515	...	...	7.4
4½	1⅛	Cap XX Ld♦	1¼	...	...	-2.8
419	279	Castings	340	- 4	...	16.4
5	2⅞	Chamberlin♦	2⅞	...	...	-0.2
34	14	Checkit♦	26	...	...	-3.1
540	391	Cohort♦‡	505	...	...	44.8
400	249	Crestchic Plc♦	399	...	...	...
1335	815	Dewhurst♦	855	...	...	9.8
325	192¼	Dialight	226	- 2	...	...
1249⅞	813	Electrolux 'B'	813	- 1¾	...	6.1
182½	85½	Feedback♦	87½	- 2½	...	...
664	426	Gooch Hsego♦	514	- 8	...	38.0
4800	2550	Goodwin	4795	+ 75	...	26.5
2498	1974	**Halma**	2177	+ 17	...	31.5
1810	893	Hill & Smith	1734	- 12	...	40.8
89	61	Holders Tech♦‡	61	...	...	3.7
2¼	¾	Image Scan♦	1¾	...	...	10.2
1680	1089	**IMI**‡	1493	+ 14	...	20.4
...	...	Inspirit Energy♦	...	...	...	...
10200	6740	Judges Scientific♦	9070	- 130	...	45.7
101½	72½	LPA♦	87½	...	...	...
798¾	798½	Meggitt	798¾	+ ⅛	...	...
543⅛	200⅜	**Melrose**	510¾	- 26⅜	...	...
323½	217	Morgan Advanced	245½	- 3½	...	10.3
325	187½	Mpac♦	187½	...	...	4.9
745	318	MS Intl♦	705	+ 25	...	...
2855	1720	Oxford Inst‡	2230	+ 30	...	30.4
1787⅛	1041	Philips El nv	...	...	...	...
15½	11¼	PipeHawk♦	11⅝	...	...	24.8
71	23⅛	Pressure Tech♦	32½	...	...	-2.7
4232	3342	Renishaw	3548	+ 8	...	20.2
31	20½	Renold♦	30½	...	...	10.8
222¼	66⅛	**Rolls-Royce**	220⅜	- 3⅜	...	...
1⅝	⅝	Ross Gp	⅝	...	...	-1.6
342⅛	229½	Rotork‡	303⅛	...	...	32.9
200	102	SDI Group♦	102½	+ 2½	...	16.9
181⅛	111	Senior	175½	- 1¾	...	30.6
75	48	Severfield‡	61½	...	...	11.0
14	2⅝	Six Hundred♦	2⅝	...	...	15.7
1554¼	1046⅝	SKF B	1280	- 17¼	...	9.4
300	225	Slingsby (HC)♦	265	- 25	...	4.3
1797½	1470½	**Smiths**	1658½	+ 3½	...	26.3
1435	986	Solid State♦‡	1315	- 10	...	31.6
450	257	Somero Enter♦	300	+ 5	...	6.6
3841	2690	Spectris	3324	+ 24	...	10.9
12350	9702	**Spirax-Sarco**	9984	+ 102	...	31.4
57	26½	Surface Trsfms♦	32¼	...	...	...
3¾	2	Tanfield♦	3⅝	...	...	...
440	345½	Thorpe FW♦	385	- 10	...	26.7
2⅛	⅝	TP Group♦	2⅛	...	...	-3.3
102½	48½	Transense Tech♦	97½	...	...	71.6
...	...	Ultra Electrncs	3500	+ 6	...	37.4
454⅛	302⅛	Vesuvius‡	437	- 8	...	11.6
1470	509	Videndum	517	+ 2	...	9.4
335	202	Volex♦	316	- 3½	...	17.2
2021	1404½	**Weir**	1906	+ 8½	...	32.2
2680	1464	XP Power‡	2175	- 10	...	11.6
150	76½	Zytronic♦	77½	...	...	25.8

Health

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
1454	1103	Abcam♦	1226	+ 123	...	...
290½	177⅛	AdvancedMedical♦	185⅜	- ⅜	...	29.1
19¾	⅞	Allergy Therap♦	2¾	- ⅛	...	-3.3
74½	11	Angle♦	15¾	+ 1¼	...	-2.1
570	178½	Anpario♦	227½	- 2½	...	11.9
12294	9656	**AstraZeneca**‡	10846	+ 22	...	...
248½	196⅝	**Convatec**‡	224¾	- 6	...	52.5
43	25⅜	Creighton	31½	...	...	6.0
3812	2520	Dechra Pharma	3806	- 6	...	56.8
1½	⅛	Deltex Medical♦	⅛	...	...	-1.0
23	10½	e-Therapeutics♦	15½	...	...	...
130	82½	Eco Animal Hlth♦	109	...	...	13.2
51	24⅝	EKF Diagnostics♦	27	+ 1⅛	...	7.6
65	35¾	Futura Medical♦	50	+ ½	...	...
3272	2108	Genus	2108	+ 46	...	37.5
1523	1296	**GSK**‡	1444⅛	+ 56	...	16.6
½	¼	Gunsynd♦	¼	...	...	3.4
353½	259⅜	**Haleon**‡	318¾	+ 3½	...	...
2205	1190½	Hikma Pharms‡	2086	- 3	...	15.6
335	134½	Hutchmed China♦	227	+ 3¼	...	...
6⅞	1½	ImmuPharma♦	2	...	...	-0.6
7025	1365	Indivior	1836	+ 24	...	...
88½	42	Inspiration Health♦	44	...	...	6.8
39	17½	IXICO♦	20	...	...	6.4
501	491½	Mediclinic	501	+ ½	...	31.3
3½	1⅜	N4 Pharma♦	1½	...	...	-1.7
71½	34⅜	NIOX Group♦‡	67⅜	- 1	...	67.4
93.95	73.32	Novartis	CHF88.12	- 0.58	...	27.5

Equity prices Money

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
4	2	Omega Diags♦	2⅛	...	...	-0.8
14	2	Ovoca Bio♦	2	...	...	-0.5
562	297	Oxford Biomedica	302	- 7	...	13.5
5	⅞	Physiomics♦	1¾	- ¼	...	-6.7
8½	3¼	Proteome Scies♦	6¼	...	...	...
6628	5556	**Reckitt Benckiser**‡	5806	+ 62	...	...
63½	15⅛	RUA Life Sciences♦	16¼	...	...	-1.5
217½	70	Sareum Hldgs♦	82½	...	...	...
1314½	984½	**Smith & Neph**	1067	+ 5½	...	24.2
250	203	Spire Hcare	210	- 2	...	...
23½	6¾	Synairgen♦	8½	- ⅛	...	-0.3
70	48	Tissue Regenix♦	54	...	...	...
38	8	Totally♦‡	8¼	...	...	13.2
435	295	Tristel♦	365	+ 7½	...	75.2
20	6	ValiRx♦	6¼	- ¼	...	...

Industrials

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
107	54⅜	Accsys Tech♦	69⅜	- 3	...	...
4636½	3333⅛	BASF	3817¼	- 54½	...	7.5
5361⅞	4068	Bayer DM50	4307¼	- 4¼	...	50.3
175	46½	Biome Tech♦	157½	...	...	-5.2
2¾	1½	Byotrol♦	1⅝	...	...	...
...	...	Camb Gbl Timber♦	6¾	...	...	-9.0
79	50⅞	Coats Grp	75¾	- ¼	...	16.9
7218	5196	**Croda**‡	5240	+ 64	...	22.8
1035	575	Cropper (James)♦‡	745	+ 25	...	22.7
129	87⅝	Elementis	116½	...	...	...
19	11	Hardide♦	11½	+ ¼	...	-2.2
2373	1543	**Johnson Math**	1750	- 17½	...	22.0
1601	1180	**Mondi**‡	1291½	- 16½	...	9.8
110	77½	Robinson♦	92½	...	...	...
368½	241¾	**DS Smith**‡	289⅞	- 4	...	16.4
738	531	Swire Pacific	591⅞	+ 17⅞	...	...
17¼	6⅝	Symph Environ♦	8	...	...	...
192⅝	47½	Synthomer	47½	+ 2½	...	0.9
2525⅜	2021⅜	Takeda Pharm	2446⅛	- 8⅝	...	13.7
7	1⅜	Velocys♦	1½	...	...	-1.8
1913	1338	Victrex	1474	- 23	...	17.5
640	397½	Wynnstay Group♦	412½	...	...	9.4
410	233	Zotefoams‡	345	- 5	...	20.7

Leisure

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
130	51⅝	888 Hldgs	128	+ 2½	...	9.4
846	542	Accesso Tech♦	700	+ 3	...	18.4
680	370	Best of the Best♦	530	...	...	5.9
1356½	501⅜	Carnival	1086½	+ 13½	...	-1.7
132½	108	Celtic♦	125	...	...	12.3
7	¼	Cineworld#	⅜	...	...	...
424½	215⅛	Domino's Pizza‡	392⅜	+ 3¾	...	20.0
1587½	1083	**Entain**‡	1173	+ 42½	...	26.2
16725	9694	**Flutter Ent**	14205	+ 260	...	...
38	23	Gaming Realms♦	36	+ ⅛	...	...
290	290	Heavitree♦	290	...	...	17.4
185	65	Heavitree A♦	150	...	...	9.0
145	90	Hermes Pacific♦	90	- 20	...	...
6134	4275	**InterContinental Hotels**‡	6134	+ 60	...	57.4
1⅛	¾	Minoan Gp♦	¾	...	...	-6.0
236⅛	102	Mitch & Butlers	219¾	+ 3½	...	...
189½	82¾	On The Beach	96⅜	+ 1½	...	-5.0
1435	1005	PPHE Hotels	1090	- 5	...	-8.8
104⅜	52⅜	Rank Grp	84¾	+ 2¾	...	11.4
51⅛	26⅝	Restaurant Gp	47½	+ 3¼	...	-8.9
50½	32½	Rotala♦	42	- 1½	...	...
175	...	Sportech♦	96⅞	+ ½	...	...
281⅛	184¾	SSP	230¾	+ 3⅛	...	-4.5
5¾	1¾	Tasty♦	2¼	...	...	3.1
295	62½	Tintra♦#	67½	...	...	-1.1
704⅜	290⅝	Tui	464¾	+ 1⅛	...	-4.8
2⅜	1⅛	Webis Holdings♦	1⅜	...	...	...
783½	389¾	Wetherspoon JD	687½	+ 7½	...	-6.4
3600	2285	**Whitbread**	3600	+ 43	...	...
1240	870	Young & Co - A♦	1115	- 5	...	...
892	564	Young & Co - N/V♦	790	...	...	...

Media

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
88	68	Aeorema Comms♦	76½	...	...	21.1
52	21	Altitude Group♦	50	- 1	...	...
96½	63½	Arcontech Grp♦	96½	+ 2½	...	13.3
281	176⅛	Ascential	198⅞	+ ½	...	...
669	486⅛	**Auto Trader**‡	602⅛	+ 2¾	...	29.7
492	366	Bloomsbury Pub	400	- 4	...	16.4
8	⅜	Bonhill Group♦	⅝	- ⅛	...	-1.5
172½	87	Catalyst Media♦	119	- 1	...	...
¼	...	Catenae♦	⅛	...	...	-0.2
...	...	DCD Media♦#	100	- 30	...	5.0
58½	43	Ebiquity♦	46	...	...	...
1818	643	Future	722½	- 2	...	12.4
196	144⅞	GlobalData♦‡	153½	...	...	7.6
120¾	50	Hyve Group	120½	...	...	...
196	69⅜	IG Design Grp♦	132½	...	...	19.4
776	506½	**Informa**‡	741	+ 8½	...	...
90	55⅛	ITV	71	+ 1	...	7.6
9¾	4⅛	Jaywing♦	4¾	...	...	...
4	1½	Live Company Gp♦#	2	...	...	-0.4
171	83½	ME Group	157	+ 2¾	...	27.4
...	...	Mediazest♦	...	...	...	-4.5
46½	26½	Merit Grp♦	44½	- ½	...	...
42½	1½	Mirada♦	1½	- 1⅜	...	...
58	38½	Mission Group♦	42	+ 1	...	7.1
280⅜	172⅜	Moneysupermarket‡	248⅛	- 1⅛	...	25.3
1732¾	1198⅛	News Corp A	1689½	+ 7½	...	27.5
1770⅜	1223¾	News Corp B	1735⅛	+ 10	...	28.3
1112	554	Next 15 Group♦	646	+ 26	...	...
995⅛	754	**Pearson**‡	881¾	+ 16¾	...	42.1
4⅜	2	Primorus Inv♦	2⅞	...	...	5.3
198	107½	Quarto	115	...	...	6.4
120⅝	66¼	Reach‡	71⅝	- 1⅛	...	79.6
1½	¾	REACT Grp♦	1½	...	...	22.8
2722	2157	**Relx**	2722	+ 27	...	35.9
637¾	445⅜	**Rightmove**	562¾	+ 2⅜	...	31.8
101⅞	65	SpaceandPeople♦	79½	+ 1	...	...
315	192	STV Group	195	+ 5	...	4.7
230	122½	System1 Group♦	215	...	...	10.2
2975	2257⅝	21st Cent Fox Inc A	2496	+ 24⅜	...	13.6
2753¾	2129½	21st Cent Fox Inc B	2301	+ 21⅝	...	12.6
...	...	Vela Tech♦	...	...	...	6.6
356	257	Wilmington	310	...	...	19.7
1051½	731¾	**WPP**	760½	+ 5½	...	14.4
112½	77½	Zinc Media♦	80	...	...	-5.0

Natural resources

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
¾	⅜	ADM Energy♦	½	...	...	...
⅛	...	Advance Energy♦#	⅛	...	...	-0.1
29½	11¼	AFC Energy♦	16⅜	- ¼	...	...
31	20½	Afentra PLC♦#	24¼	...	...	...
⅛	...	Alba Mineral Res♦	...	...	...	-2.0
½	⅛	Alien Metals♦	⅛	...	...	-5.8
87⅜	51⅝	Alumina	51⅝	- 1	...	10.7
1¼	⅞	Aminex	1	...	...	-6.4
1¾	...	Amur Mins Corp♦#	...	...	...	-2.0
728599½	2503⅝	Anglo Amer Plat	2503⅝	- 26⅜	...	1.8
3672½	1970	**Anglo American**‡	2023	- 2½	...	4.0
121	56	Anglo Asian Mng♦	56	- 1	...	4.8
1805	1042½	**Antofagasta**‡	1466½	+ 1½	...	15.1
4⅜	2⅜	Arc Minerals♦	3⅜	- ⅛	...	2.4
3½	2	Ariana Res♦	2¾	...	...	3.7
⅝	¼	Arkle Resources♦	¼	...	...	-1.0
2⅜	¾	Armadale Cap♦	¾	...	...	...
1⅝	⅞	Asiamet Rsrcs♦	1⅛	...	...	...
380	188	Atalaya Mine♦‡	328	+ 2	...	4.1
¼	...	Baron Oil♦	...	...	...	...
4¾	1⅜	Beowulf Mining♦	1½	...	...	-6.5
...	...	Bezant Res♦	...	...	...	-0.6
2855	2052	BHP Group‡	2207	- 16	...	9.6
5⅜	1¾	Border & Sthn Pet♦	2⅛	...	...	...
20⅜	13¼	Bougainville	17⅞	+ ¾	...	...
4½	⅞	BowLeven♦	1¾	...	...	-2.2
567½	430	**BP**‡	517¼	+ 2½	...	18.7
16⅝	6½	Cadence Min♦	6⅞	+ ⅛	...	0.7
2½	1½	Cadogan Petrol	1¾	...	...	24.3
1350	775	Caledonia Mining♦	775	- 25	...	7.5
555¼	162	Capricorn Energy	164½	- 4⅛	...	1.3
8⅜	2¼	Caspian Sunrise♦	3	...	...	91.1
125½	83	Centamin‡	86¼	- ¼	...	13.3
292½	175½	Cent Asia Metals♦	201½	+ 1	...	5.9
14½	5¼	Chaarat Gold♦	5¼	- ¼	...	...
19⅞	13⅜	Chariot Oil & Gas♦	13⅞	...	...	...
4	⅞	China Nonferr Gold♦	⅞	- ¾	...	-6.3
⅛	...	Clontarf Energy♦	...	...	...	-1.5
34½	15¼	Condor Gld♦	22½	+ 1½	...	...
⅜	⅛	Corcel♦	⅜	+ ⅛	...	-0.4
10277⅛	77	DRD Gold	77	+ 1¾	...	9.1
1⅛	⅛	ECR Minerals♦	⅛	...	...	-1.4
1⅜	⅝	Empyrean Energy♦	⅞	...	...	-6.5
2184	1461	**Endeavour**‡	1554	- 1	...	23.1
31½	14	EnQuest	15	...	...	0.9
7⅛	2¼	Eurasia Mining♦	2⅞	...	...	...
2⅞	⅞	Europa Oil&Gas♦	1¼	...	...	11.3
175	74¼	Ferrexpo	78¼	+ 4	...	0.6
968	509⅛	**Fresnillo**‡	554⅜	+ 2⅜	...	13.1
...	...	G3 Exploration#	28	...	...	-2.6
39	14¼	Galantas Gold♦	14¼	- ¼	...	-2.4
7¼	1⅞	GCM Resources♦	2	...	...	-1.7
36⅝	15¾	Gem Diamonds	17⅛	+ ⅛	...	1.7
19½	8⅜	Getech♦	8⅝	...	...	-2.0
578	411⅜	**Glencore**‡	426	+ 2½	...	15.5
⅜	⅛	Global Petrol♦	⅛	...	...	-1.5
135104¾	998⅜	Gold Fields	998⅜	+ 18⅛	...	15.3
12½	6½	Goldplat♦	6½	...	...	5.0
8⅛	2⅛	Goldstone Res♦#	2⅛	...	...	-9.9
9⅛	6	Greatld Gld♦	6	+ ⅛	...	...
96½	70	Griffin Mining♦	80⅞	- 1	...	8.9
235	90⅝	Gulf Keystone	90⅝	- ⅝	...	5.6
25⅞	5⅝	Harland & Wolff Gp♦	13¼	- 1⅞	...	1.0
94⅞	51½	Hochschild	83⅜	- 1¾	...	8.0
172	85	Horizonte Minrls♦	134	+ ½	...	...
351½	197⅜	Hunting PLC	256	- ½	...	-6.5
¼	...	Independ Res♦#	...	...	...	...
272	125	Indus Gas♦	141	...	...	14.6
⅜	¼	Ironveld♦	¼	...	...	-4.3
166	66¾	ITM Power♦	80	+ 1	...	...
14	6¼	Jubilee Metals♦	7	...	...	5.8
4¾	1⅝	Karel Diamd Res♦	4½	...	...	...
1	½	KEFI Gold and Copper♦	½	...	...	-2.5
493	380½	Kenmare Res	420	+ 4½	...	4.9
9	8⅝	Lamprell#	8⅞	...	...	-0.7
20	8¼	Landore Res♦	10⅜	+ ⅛	...	-2.3
½	...	Lansdowne O&G♦	...	...	...	-2.8
15	10	Leeds Group♦	10	...	...	-1.6
8¾	3⅛	Lexington Gold♦	6	...	...	...
21½	7¼	MC Mining♦	7¾	...	...	-1.6
2¼	¾	Metals Explorn♦	2	...	...	3.5
¼	⅛	Nostra Terra♦	⅛	...	...	-1.0
26½	⅛	Nostrum O&G	11⅜	...	...	-0.1
...	...	Oil Search	218⅞	- 5⅜	...	60.3
...	...	Oilex♦#	⅛	...	...	-3.7
⅛	...	Oriole Resources♦	...	...	...	-1.1
⅞	½	Ormonde Mining♦#	¾	...	...	-3.1
14½	3	Orosur Mining♦	3	...	...	-4.6
20⅛	12	Pan African Res♦	13⅞	...	...	4.5
121⅞	10½	Pantheon Res♦	22¼	- ⅝	...	...
67⅜	13	Parkmead Grp♦	17¾	...	...	-1.5
⅜	⅛	Pathfinder Mins♦	⅜	...	...	-3.9
120	64¾	Petra Diamonds	70	...	...	2.3
1⅞	⅞	Petrel Resources♦	1	...	...	-5.3
7	1⅝	Petro Matad♦	3¾	...	...	...
125½	46	Petrofac	77	+ 1⅝	...	-1.9
1	...	Petroneft Res♦#	...	...	...	-0.2
...	...	Petropavlovsk#	1⅛	- ⅛	...	1.6
6½	5½	Phoenix Global♦	6½	+ ¼	...	-1.6
15¾	1⅝	Plexus Holdings♦	14	- 1¾	...	-3.4
350	150	Polymetal Intl#	215	+ 50	...	...
698	499	Porvair	600	- 2	...	23.0
19¼	5¼	Prospex Energy♦	6¼	...	...	-8.3
14⅝	7½	Proton Motor Power S♦	8¼	...	...	-1.5
3½	3¼	Providence Res♦	3¼	...	...	29.0
2¾	⅞	Quadrise♦	1	...	...	-4.0
21	2	Rambler Met&Min♦#	5⅜	...	...	0.1
⅜	...	Reabold Resources♦	...	...	...	-1.7
½	⅛	Red Rock Res♦	⅛	...	...	-0.8
6563½	4486	Rio Tinto Ltd	5691¾	- 98¾	...	5.9
6377	4486	**Rio Tinto**‡	4834½	- 12½	...	5.0
40	12½	San Leon Energy♦#	16½	+ 1½	...	6.1
½	⅛	Scirocco Energy♦	⅜	...	...	...
38½	21½	Serabi Gold♦	23½	- ½	...	3.2
390	198⅜	Serica Energy♦	256⅜	+ ½	...	...
13½	8¾	Shanta Gold♦	10⅛	...	...	6.4
2604½	2200½	**Shell**‡	2502½	+ ½	...	13.1
15	4¾	Shuka Minerals♦	13¼	- ¼	...	-0.8
2	¾	Sound Energy♦	¾	...	...	5.2
106½	9¾	Star Energy♦	9¾	- ¼	...	-0.5
⅛	...	Sunrise Resources♦	...	...	...	-9.4
¼	...	Tertiary Minerals♦	⅛	...	...	-3.2
6½	1⅝	Thor Mining♦	1¾	...	...	...
5250¾	3838½	Total Eng SE	5087⅞	+ 66⅞	...	11.6
¼	...	Tower Resources♦	...	...	...	-0.7
50¾	22½	Tullow Oil	36⅞	- ⅞	...	3.6
...	...	UK Oil & Gas♦	...	...	...	-1.2
222	125	URU Metals♦	125	...	...	4.0
¾	⅛	Vast Res♦	¼	...	...	...
...	...	Victoria Oil&Gas♦#	3¾	...	...	-1.8
...	...	W Resources♦#	2⅝	...	...	-0.3
3¼	1⅞	Westmount Engy♦	2	...	...	-0.4
226	104½	Wood Grp (J)	160¼	- 3	...	-6.5
4½	¼	Woodbois♦	⅝	...	...	2.4
3½	1⅛	Xtract Resources♦	1¼	...	...	-2.4
7¼	3	Zephyr Energy♦	3½	- ⅛	...	-4.4

Professional & support services

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
5350	3280	4imprint Grp‡	5010	+ 120	...	84.5
657½	460	Andrews Sykes♦	630	...	...	20.1
5874	3829	**Ashtead**‡	5190	+ 24	...	25.2
7¾	⅞	Asimilar Group♦	1	...	...	...
78½	38	AssetCo♦	39	...	...	0.2
55	40½	Avisen♦	50	...	...	...
148	117	Begbies Traynor♦	119¼	- ¼	...	...
226	154½	Blancco Tech♦	226	...	...	81.0
3225	2664	**Bunzl**	2807	+ 7	...	21.3
42⅝	16¼	Capita	16¼	+ ⅛	...	1.2
41½	36	CEPS♦	41	+ 2	...	-9.3
160	105	Christie Group♦	105	- 2½	...	44.6
2235	1788½	**Compass**	2049	+ 48	...	49.8
252	97	CPPGroup♦	157½	- 1½	...	...
70	45	Croma Security♦	49½	+ 1½	...	7.1
5066	4030	**DCC**	4384	+ 2	...	14.4
104	30	De La Rue	57⅜	+ 1½	...	7.5
3308	2226	Diploma	3148	+ 4	...	56.3
938	626	Discoverie	727	- 3	...	59.5
33	23½	Driver Group♦	27½	...	...	13.1
252	146⅛	Essentra	146⅛	+ ½	...	16.4
3160	2568	**Experian**	2778	+ 6	...	35.6
12850	9094	Ferguson	12370	...	...	18.2
274	225	FIH Group♦	242	...	...	...
10⅝	5	Grafenia♦	9	...	...	-6.6
485	317	Hargeaves Serv♦	472½	- 2½	...	4.9
735	465	Impellam Grp♦	700	...	...	38.2
7½	4	Ince G♦#	5⅛	...	...	2.9
4528	3619	**Intertek**	4205	+ 68	...	23.6
197⅝	115⅜	IWG	169⅛	- 3⅜	...	-6.4
138	77	Johnson Srvce♦	133¾	+ 3	...	83.6
197	106	Journeo♦	189	- 1½	...	42.3
90	56½	Kier Gp	87⅛	+ ⅛	...	8.5
1360	1080	Latham (J)♦	1115	...	...	6.1
990	695	Lok'n Store♦	716	- 16	...	21.7
3150	2300	Lon Security♦	3000	+ 50	...	16.5
339	220	LSL Prop Services	233	- 7	...	6.4
119	86	Macfarlane	110½	...	...	12.8
255	90	Maintel Hldgs♦	165	...	...	5.0
2000	8¼	Malvern Intl♦	24½	...	...	...
292	185	Mears Group	274	- 2	...	23.8
...	...	Menzies (John)	607	- 1	...	48.0
103⅛	61½	Mitie Gp	102⅛	- 1⅛	...	51.1
13¾	3¾	MobilityOne♦	4¾	...	...	3.5
56½	25	Newmark Sec♦	54	...	...	...
6½	3½	Norm Broadbent♦	5½	- ¼	...	...
62½	37	Northern Bear♦‡	54½	...	...	5.5
286	218½	NWF Grp♦	235	...	...	...
491½	362⅛	PageGroup‡	402⅛	- 2½	...	10.8
61½	45½	PCI-PAL♦	47	...	...	-9.7
11½	6¾	Petards♦	6⅞	...	...	12.5
24	12½	PHSC♦	22½	...	...	40.9
1⅞	⅜	PowerHouse Egy♦	½	...	...	-0.9
98	66	Record	76⅜	- 1	...	20.9
437½	283½	Redde Northgate‡	329½	...	...	8.2
760	555	Renew Hldgs♦	708	- 13	...	17.5
738	450	Renewi	491½	+ 13½	...	10.4
655⅛	465	**Rentokil**‡	589	+ ¾	...	41.7
430	125	Restore♦	200	- 3	...	23.8
610	412½	Ricardo	520	- 6	...	46.4
600	355	Robert Walters‡	356	- 9	...	8.1
20	11	Roebuck Food Grp♦	13½	...	...	2.0
239	207	RPS Group	221	- 1	...	...
1118	696½	**RS Group**	747½	+ 8⅜	...	18.9
53½	16	RTC Group♦	51½	...	...	...
408⅜	226⅛	RWS Hldgs♦	234	- 2	...	21.4
431	365	Science Group♦	410	...	...	18.8
180⅛	136⅞	Serco‡	149¾	- ½	...	6.1
57½	27½	Smiths News	43⅛	+ ⅞	...	4.1
3596	2452	**Smurfit Kappa**	2998	- 98	...	13.6
44	25⅜	Staffline Gp♦	28⅞	- 1	...	22.2
484½	332	SThree	355½	+ 4	...	11.5
137½	102½	Synectics♦	112½	...	...	...
31	21⅝	Thruvision Group♦	30	+ 2	...	...
84	35	Tribal♦	43½	- 1	...	13.5
87	49	Vianet♦	78½	...	...	...
803	535	Vp	540	...	...	13.3
2⅜	1⅛	Westminster♦	1⅜	...	...	-1.7

Real estate

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
131¼	95½	Shaftesbury Cap‡	117⅝	+ 1⅝	...	34.6

Retailing

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
100½	41⅜	AO World	93⅝	- 1¼	...	...
590½	295½	**B&M European**	562¾	+ 4⅜	...	13.0
42⅝	20¼	Brown (N)♦	21¾	- 1	...	6.4
112½	40¾	Card Factory	103¾	...	...	...
2192	1591	CVS Group♦	1606	- 107	...	44.9
165	104¾	DFS Furn	110	- 1⅜	...	5.8
1275	712½	Dunelm	1122	- 3	...	15.1
899	621	**Frasers Group**	798½	- 3	...	35.4
2904	1673	Greggs‡	2398	+ 28	...	20.9
226⅛	126½	Halfords‡	192½	+ ⅞	...	6.4
759⅛	480⅞	Howden Joinery	735½	+ 1⅛	...	13.8
941	675	Inchcape	766	...	...	25.8
4⅜	1⅝	IQ-AI	4¼	+ ¼	...	...
186⅝	89⅛	**JD Sports**	137¾	+ 3½	...	16.6
291½	203	**Kingfisher**	226	+ ½	...	5.6
129⅛	61½	Lookers‡	128½	...	...	8.2
231½	93⅛	Marks & Spencer	221⅞	+ 1⅜	...	...
11⅛	4⅞	Mothercare♦	5	...	...	-3.1
145	60	Naked Wines♦	70⅝	- ¾	...	...
7228	4383	**Next**	7108	+ 116	...	13.5
976⅜	343⅜	**Ocado**	826¾	+ 3⅜	...	...
28⅜	14⅞	Pendragon	18¼	...	...	5.7
397½	257¾	Pets at Home	346⅛	+ 3	...	14.1
188½	72⅞	Saga	129	- 7	...	...
289½	169⅞	**Sainsbury's**	266⅞	+ 2¼	...	22.4
1714	1132½	WH Smith	1382	- 13	...	...
27¼	14¼	Sosandar♦	22¾	- ¼	...	...
...	...	Studio Retail#	115	- 2½	...	2.4
284½	199⅛	**Tesco**	258½	+ 3	...	13.1
56⅜	38	Topps Tiles	49⅛	...	...	8.9

Technology

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
100½	59	Access Intell♦	59	...	...	-8.1
131	9½	Aferian plc♦	18	+ 1	...	3.2
196½	126	Alfa Financial	160	+ 3	...	25.0
13¾	8¼	Allied Minds	13¾	+ 3⅛	...	-1.2
419	268	Aptitude Software	287	+ 6	...	32.2
265	162½	Bango♦	162½	...	...	...
33	21	BATM Adv Coms	29	+ 1⅝	...	12.2
38	14¼	Berkeley Res	19½	- ½	...	-8.3
20	5¾	Blackbird♦	9¾	+ 1	...	...
1¼	¾	CloudCoCo Group♦	¾	...	...	-1.8
2486	1810	Computacenter	2486	+ 330	...	15.4
86½	55½	Concurrent Tech♦	73½	- ½	...	17.4
11½	5¾	Corero♦	6¼	...	...	...
2250	1080	Craneware♦	1547½	+ 17½	...	70.5
3¼	1¾	Crimson Tide♦	2⅜	...	...	16.3
24	11¼	CyanConn Hldgs♦	14¾	- ¼	...	...
261½	157½	D4t4 Solutions♦	190	...	...	22.5
21	13	Dillistone Group♦	13½	...	...	-3.9
⅜	⅛	EQTEC♦	⅛	...	...	-1.8
870	518	FDM Group	557	- 1	...	19.3
18	10¾	Filtronic♦	16½	...	...	44.5
2165	1230	First Derivts♦	1590	+ 28	...	...
644½	213¾	GB Group♦	222	...	...	16.9
180½	135	GreshamTech	149	...	...	...
75½	24¼	Ilika♦	40½	+ ¼	...	...
132½	91	Ingenta♦	116½	...	...	68.1
77	38	Intercede♦	52	...	...	17.9
189⅜	112	Iomart♦‡	176	- 1¾	...	19.3
59⅞	16⅞	IQE♦	16⅞	+ ⅛	...	...
129	112½	K3 Business Tch♦	123	...	...	-2.1
1683	1041⅞	LG Electronics	1281⅜	- 112⅛	...	3.4
⅛	⅛	Location Sciences♦#	⅛	...	...	-2.3
56½	42	MTI Wireless♦	45	+ ½	...	14.9
55¾	17	Nanoco Gp	17⅛	- ¼	...	...
116½	74	Netcall♦	82½	+ 1	...	...
49½	35	Northamber♦	45½	...	...	...
25¾	10¼	Online Blockchain♦	12	...	...	-6.3
119	80½	Oxford Metrics♦	100½	...	...	43.7
8½	2¾	Parity♦	2¾	...	...	-4.1
41½	28½	Pennant Intl♦	38	...	...	...
634½	390¾	Playtech	531	+ 7½	...	5.5
379¾	297⅛	QinetiQ	334⅜	- 1⅛	...	26.1
92	20½	RM	61⅞	...	...	12.3
1020	679¾	**Sage**	1020	+ 11	...	39.1
7⅝	5	Seeing Machines♦	5⅝	...	...	...
116½	37	Shearwater Grp♦	43½	...	...	26.9
54	31½	Smartspace S'ware♦	42	- 1½	...	-4.3
1534	1071	Softcat	1517	+ 20	...	29.7
286⅛	146⅞	Spirent Comms‡	146⅞	+ 2⅛	...	13.6
68	24¾	SRT Marine♦	50½	+ 1	...	...
571⅝	362⅜	Tele. Ericsson	409⅞	- 8	...	7.4
112½	72½	Touchstar♦	96¼	- 1¼	...	...
1000	720	Tracsis♦	770	+ 24	...	98.0
19½	12¼	Trakm8♦	17	...	...	...
165	81	Triad Grp	130	...	...	14.2
1380	49	Wandisco♦	66⅛	- ¼	...	-1.2
735	400	Water Intel♦	400	...	...	22.0
220	144½	Xaar	190	+ 9½	...	...
5⅝	⅛	Yourgene♦	½	...	...	-0.3
207½	59	Zoo Digital♦	61	- 1	...	...

Telecoms

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
200½	100	AdEPT Technology♦‡	200½	...	...	...
144	103⅝	**Airtel Africa**	112½	- ¾	...	10.0
160¼	112	**BT Group**‡	112⅛	- 1¾	...	10.8
85¼	47⅞	Currys plc	49¼	+ ¾	...	2.3
1210	1012	Gamma Comms♦	1154	+ 50	...	20.9
128⅛	82	Helios Towers	88⅛	+ ¾	...	-7.9
2215½	1012	Just Eat T'away	1012	+ 9	...	-2.1
¼	...	Mobile Streams♦	...	...	...	-1.3
2¼	⅝	Mobile Tornado♦	1½	...	...	-8.8
2500	1464	Telecom Plus	1544	- 6	...	39.5
110½	70	**Vodafone**	73⅛	- ⅝	...	...

Transport

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
336½	224	Braemar Ship#	233	+ 3	...	7.7
528	285	EasyJet	431½	+ 4½	...	-2.7
6⅞	2⅜	Esken Limited	3⅜	...	...	-0.1
155⅝	93½	FirstGroup	155⅝	+ 2¼	...	37.0
425	251	Fisher (James)	337	- 13	...	-6.1
173½	93⅝	**International Airlines**	155	+ ⅜	...	-3.4
272⅜	183⅛	IDS	253⅛	+ 3⅜	...	2.9
439¼	322	Irish Cont Uts	393	...	...	...
1381½	667¾	Jet2♦	1087	- 4	...	-5.8
198⅞	75⅜	Mobico Group	88⅜	+ ¾	...	-5.2
1035	820	Ocean Wilson	934	- 16	...	4.7
...	...	Stagecoach	104⅝	...	...	14.7
24	17	Sutton Harbour♦	17½	...	...	...
372	192⅜	Wincanton	238	+ 3	...	6.4
3158	1357½	Wizz Air	2044	- 13	...	-4.6

Utilities

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
161⅞	67¼	**Centrica**	161⅞	+ 2½	...	16.3
256½	249	ContourGlobal	251	+ ½	...	28.3
750	473⅜	Drax Group‡	542½	+ 2	...	40.1
555	432	Jersey Electricity	450	...	...	8.5
1162	858⅜	**National Grid**	996⅜	+ 1½	...	23.2
9¾	5⅝	OPG Power♦	8⅜	...	...	5.4
1000	611½	Pennon	611½	+ 2	...	44.3
¾	¼	Rurelec♦	½	...	...	-0.4
2975	2213	**Severn Trent**	2423	+ 13	...	...
1900	1428	**SSE**‡	1626½	+ 9	...	6.3
1102½	828⅛	**United Utilities**	952⅛	+ 7¾	...	87.3

♦AIM company; # Price at suspension; † Ex dividend; ‡ Ex scrip; ▲ Ex rights issue; ▼ Ex all; § Ex capital distribution; * figures or report awaited; . . . No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 Index. Investment Cos sector Nav Dis or Prm supplied by Morningstar.

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Money Markets

Wall Street

	Sept 8 close	wkly +/-
3M	106.24	-0.71
Abbott Labs	100.73	-2.12
AbbVie	149.02	+0.82
Accenture	325.47	-2.27
Activision Blizzard	92.12	+0.08
Adobe Sys	560.36	-2.85
Aflac	74.83	+0.06
Agilent Tech	113.99	-7.92
Air Prods & Chm	298.51	+0.49
Albemarle Corporation	184.43	-15.83
Alexion Pharmas	182.50	
Allergan	193.02	
Allstate	106.20	-4.36
Altria	44.08	-0.03
Amazon	138.23	+0.11
Amer Elec Pwr	77.74	+0.22
Amer Express	157.43	-2.19
Amer Tower	180.89	+0.10
Ameren Corp	79.41	+0.96
American Int	59.66	+0.42
American Wtr W	137.73	-0.07
Ameriprise	345.05	+2.74
AmerisrceBerg	179.98	+2.02
Ametek	153.90	-6.75
Amgen	259.43	+2.72
Amphenol	85.89	-2.68
Anadarko Petrlm	72.77	
Analog Devices	177.47	-4.96
Aon Corp	333.45	-0.89
Apple	178.18	-11.28
Applied Mats	147.53	-6.46
Archer Daniels	78.81	-0.98
Arthur J. Gallagher	228.19	-2.88
AT&T	14.40	-0.25
Auto Data Proc	249.37	-6.38
Autodesk	219.19	-0.83
Autozone	2619.29	+76.90
AvalonBay	179.28	-2.07
Baker Hughes	57.68	
Ball Corp	69.49	-11.15
Bank NY Mellon	44.78	-0.64
Bank of America	28.36	-0.62
Bard (CR)	331.24	
Baxter Intl	38.67	-1.93
BB&T	54.24	-0.48
Becton Dickinsn	266.76	-11.70
Berkshire Hath	363.15	+0.69
Biogen Idec	258.99	-8.18
Blackrock	690.62	-15.57
Boeing	211.27	-12.13
Boston Sci	53.87	+0.25
Bristol-Myrs Sq	60.82	-1.20
Broadcom Ord	857.55	-14.97
Brown-Forman- B	64.31	-2.43
Capital One Fin	99.92	-3.58
Cardinal Health	88.78	+1.20
Caterpillar	282.28	-3.97
Celgene	108.24	
Centene	65.41	+4.14
CenterPoint Egy	28.29	+0.64
Cerner	94.92	+0.07
Chevron	167.21	+2.91
Chipotle Mex Grill	1945.10	+6.49
Church & Dwight	95.67	-0.59
Cigna Corp	281.48	+4.81
Cintas	495.13	-10.13
Cisco Systems	56.67	-1.17
Citigroup	40.59	-1.00
Clorox Co	154.70	-0.54
CME	204.99	+2.10
Coca-Cola	58.33	-0.98
Cognizant Tech	71.34	-0.39
Colgate-Palm	73.20	-0.07
Comcast	45.03	-0.70
ConocoPhillips	122.72	+0.58
Consd Edison	89.25	+0.90
Constellation Brs	259.20	-0.28
Corning	31.37	-1.49
Costco Whole	551.19	+6.94
Crown Castle Int	99.24	-0.53
CSX	29.95	-0.68
Cummins	234.87	-1.77
CVS Caremark	65.84	+0.17
Danaher	248.36	-17.23
Darden Rest	149.44	-6.12
Deere&Co	399.66	-19.24
Delta Air Lines	40.82	-2.04
Devon Energy	52.66	-0.26
Digital Realty Tr.	129.98	-2.13
Discover Financial	89.57	-2.49
Dollar General	127.20	-3.07
Dollar Tree	116.02	-2.72
Dominion Res	47.12	-0.76
Dover	142.11	-6.59
Dow Chemical	53.71	-1.58
D.R. Horton	117.31	-2.87
Dr Pepper Snap	123.66	-0.02
DTE Energy	102.66	+0.48
Duke Energy	91.02	+3.09
Eaton	236.13	+2.46

	Sept 8 close	wkly +/-
eBay	43.43	-1.67
Ecolab	182.06	-0.64
Edison Intl	69.80	+1.39
Edwards Life	74.07	-2.31
Electronic Arts	121.75	+1.21
Eli Lilly	586.46	+29.35
Emerson Elec	98.95	+0.03
Entergy	95.27	+0.93
EOG Res	132.73	+1.75
Equifax	196.56	-10.27
Equinix	771.44	-6.08
Equity Res	62.65	-1.35
Estee Lauder	154.00	-7.70
Evrsurce Engy	62.08	-0.97
Exelon	40.58	+0.59
Express Scripts	92.33	
Extra Space Stor	126.39	-2.44
Exxon Mobil	115.61	+2.09
Facebook	196.64	+8.00
Fastenal	54.51	-2.77
Fedex	253.31	-7.66
Fifth Third	26.41	-0.64
First Solar	183.21	-3.16
FirstEnergy	35.62	-0.07
FIS	55.33	-1.35
Fiserv	114.23	+1.27
Ford Motor	12.30	+0.16
Freeport-Mcm	39.29	-2.20
Garmin	102.77	-3.27
Gen Dynamics	217.87	-8.50
Gen Electric	111.72	-2.52
General Mills	66.15	-0.10
General Mtrs	32.95	-0.59
Genuine Parts	149.99	-5.09
Gilead Sciences	76.00	-0.65
Global Payments	125.91	-3.41
Goldman Sachs	325.52	-1.88
Google Class A	136.38	+0.72
Google Class C CS	137.20	+0.40
Grainger (WW)	689.93	-20.85
Halliburton	41.28	+1.47
Harris	189.13	-8.09
Hartford Financial	71.49	-0.94
HCA Hldngs	273.58	-7.23
Hershey	209.03	-4.82
Hess	160.52	+3.32
Hologic	72.23	-2.89
Home Depot	328.71	-4.37
Honeywell Intl	184.52	-3.87
Hormel Foods	37.12	-1.28
HP Ent	17.34	-0.64
HP Inc	29.45	-0.92
Humana	467.73	+7.12
IBM	147.68	-0.26
ICE Group	114.96	-2.05
IFF	68.73	-1.52
Illinois Tool	238.45	-8.92
Illumina	158.36	-10.10
Ingersoll-Rand	69.42	-0.53
Intel	38.01	+1.40
Intuit	550.56	+6.96
Intuitive Surg	298.22	-12.19
Iron Mountn	62.68	-0.93
JB Hunt Trprt	184.63	-7.10
Johnsn & Johnsn	160.56	+0.08
Johnson Controls	57.35	-2.43
JP Morgan Chase	143.83	-2.99
Kansas City	293.59	
Kellogg	59.42	-0.47
Kimberly-Clark	127.48	+0.02
Kinder Morgan	16.80	-0.34
KLA-Tencor	497.73	-9.29
Kroger	46.94	+0.96
Lab Corp Amer	203.31	-3.27
Lam Research	668.88	-33.08
Lennar	118.67	-1.99
Level 3 Coms	53.63	+0.43
Lockheed Martin	423.09	-25.09
Lowes Cos	231.29	-1.22
LyondellBasell	99.38	-1.59
Marathon Petrol	155.31	+9.35
Marriott Intl	205.45	-0.37
Marsh & McLenn	194.76	-1.01
MartinMarietta	438.09	-19.30
MasterCard	414.84	-0.73
McCormick	80.70	+0.24
McDonald's	279.22	-1.72
McKesson	420.78	+8.44
Medtronic	79.96	-2.17
Merck & Co	109.05	-0.79
Metlife	63.31	-0.99
Microchip	78.78	-3.51
Micron	70.18	-0.21
Microsoft	334.27	+5.61
Mondelez	69.82	+0.13
Monster Bvrge	56.37	-0.18
Moodys	339.77	+0.45
Morgan Stanley	84.92	-0.83
Motorola Sols	282.50	-1.18
M&T Bank Corp	121.78	-3.98

	Sept 8 close	wkly +/-
Nasdaq OMX	51.43	-0.51
Netflix	442.80	+2.92
Newmont Mining	38.73	-0.59
NextEra Energy	66.83	-0.04
Nike	97.67	-4.69
Norfolk Sthn	195.64	-10.74
Northrop Grum	422.72	-12.90
Nucor	164.94	-7.64
Nvidia	455.72	-29.37
Occidental Petr	65.28	+0.71
ONEOK	64.77	-0.78
Oracle	126.32	+5.39
O'Reilly	958.36	+10.91
Paccar	84.51	+0.99
Parker-Hannifin	409.20	-13.26
Paychex	120.54	-1.86
Paypal Hldngs	60.98	-2.59
PepsiCo	176.27	+0.95
Pfizer	34.25	-1.53
PG&E	16.96	+0.50
Philip Morris Intl	93.67	-2.01
Phillips66	122.23	+5.06
Pioneer Ntrl Rscs	238.82	-2.84
PNC Finl	116.93	-5.29
PPG Inds	135.70	-6.31
PPL	24.75	-0.01
Price T Rowe	109.24	-3.66
Priceline.com	1905.64	+20.64
Principal Fin	75.38	-3.05
Procter & Gmbl	152.93	-1.58
Progressive Cp	135.76	+0.28
Prologis	122.48	-2.11
Prudential Finl	95.09	-1.00
Public Serv Ent	60.79	+0.29
Public Storage	273.66	-2.14
PulteGroup	80.72	-1.91
Qualcomm	106.14	-9.25
Quanta Services	206.50	-5.86
Realty Income	55.32	-0.88
Regeneron Pharm	830.69	-0.94
Republic Serv	146.22	+1.32
Rockwell Auto	296.86	-17.19
Rockwell Collins	141.04	
Roper Inds	491.51	-8.03
Ross Stores	119.36	-2.34
RylCaribbean	97.35	-0.35
Salesforce.com	224.76	+3.23
Schlumberger	60.17	+0.05
Schwab (Charles)	59.33	-1.17
Sempra Energy	71.25	+1.19
Sherwin-Williams	271.45	-3.37
Simon Prop	114.62	-0.29
Southern Co	67.93	+0.71
S&P Global	390.71	-3.53
Spectra Engy	38.25	-0.27
Starbucks	95.28	-2.72
State Street	70.16	+0.31
Sthwest Airlines	29.53	-1.89
Stryker	289.54	+5.09
SunTrust Banks	70.13	
Sysco	69.95	-0.34
Target	123.69	-1.83
TE Connectivity	127.86	-5.41
Texas Insts	164.66	-5.17
TheKraftHeinz	32.96	+0.39
Thermo Fisher	518.27	-38.95
TJX	91.45	-1.19
Tractor Supply Co	217.39	-3.13
Transdigm Group	871.89	-39.43
Travelers	159.89	-2.41
TSYS	133.27	
Ulta Salon	413.71	-2.30
Union Pacific	211.80	-9.23
Untd Rentls	463.77	-27.40
UPS	161.04	-6.96
US Bancorp	36.11	-0.96
Utd Health	480.77	+4.53
Utd Tech	86.01	-18.63
Valero Energy	142.06	+8.48
VeriSign	206.56	+1.41
Verisk Analyt CS	244.38	+1.54
Verizon Comm	33.45	-1.41
Vertex Pharma	343.05	-8.05
Visa	247.29	-0.82
Vulcan Mats	216.25	-6.67
Walgreens Boots	21.99	-1.44
Wal-Mart	163.77	+2.20
Walt Disney	81.58	-0.06
Waste Mgt	156.45	-0.56
WEC Engy	84.67	+1.56
Wells Fargo	41.00	-0.65
Welltower	52.22	-2.58
Weyerhaeuser	32.10	-0.65
Williams Cos	33.82	-0.87
Xcel Energy	57.07	+0.56
Xilinx	194.92	
Xylem	95.22	-7.36
Yum Brands	126.53	-3.11
Zimmer	120.65	+1.20
Zoetis	185.78	-6.74

London Financial Futures

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol	Open Int
Long Gilt	SEP 23	94.760	95.080	94.760	94.830	2	617
	Dec 23	94.790	94.950	94.400	94.880	138084	520332
3-Mth Sterling	Sep 23						
	Dec 23						
	Mar 24						
	Jun 24						
	Sep 24						
3-Mth Euribor	Sep 23	96.165	96.175	96.145	96.160	152494	632092
	Dec 23	96.115	96.125	96.095	96.105	113934	607120
	Mar 24	96.185	96.205	96.170	96.180	74624	527875
	Jun 24	96.350	96.375	96.330	96.345	67037	481786
	Sep 24	96.560	96.585	96.540	96.555	54542	217121
3-Mth Euroswiss	Sep 23						
	Dec 23						
	Mar 24						
	Jun 24						
FTSE100	Sep 23	7452.5	7498.5	7407.0	7485.0	167398	555404
	Dec 23	7506.0	7555.5	7466.5	7543.0	95005	33338
FTSEurofirst 80	Sep 23				5732.5		
	Dec 23				5759.0		

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Major indices

New York	
Dow Jones	34576.59 (+75.86)
Nasdaq Composite	13761.53 (+12.69)
S&P 500	4457.49 (+6.35)
Tokyo	
Nikkei 225	32606.84 (-384.24)
Hong Kong	
Hang Seng	18202.07 (-247.91)
Amsterdam	
AEX Index	739.09 (-0.62)
Sydney	
AO	7358.10 (-16.80)
Frankfurt	
DAX	15740.30 (+0.00)
Singapore	
Straits	3207.75 (-18.84)
Brussels	
BEL20	3655.70 (+10.23)
Paris	
CAC-40	7240.77 (+44.67)
Zurich	
SMI Index	10948.59 (-44.84)
DJ Euro Stoxx 50	4237.19 (+16.17)
London	
FTSE 100	7478.19 (+36.47)
FTSE 250	18463.19 (+79.34)
FTSE 350	4114.30 (+19.72)
FTSE Eurotop 100	3583.98 (+8.55)
FTSE All-Shares	4072.74 (+19.14)
FTSE Non Financials	4983.50 (+26.53)
techMARK 100	6417.20 (+113.57)
Bargains	n/a
US$	1.2459 (-0.0015)
Euro	1.1643 (-0.0017)
£:SDR	0.98 (+0.00)
Exchange Index	81.92 n/a
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
CPI	130.90 Jul (2015 = 100)
RPI	374.20 Jul (Jan 1987 = 100)
RPIX	371.90 Jul (Jan 1987 = 100)
Morningstar Long Commodity	677.16 (+5.72)
Morningstar Long/Short Commod	4703.45 (+27.75)

Commodities

ICIS pricing (London 7.30pm)

Crude Oils ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	91.97	+0.76
BFOE(Nov)	90.72	+0.74
BFOE(Dec)	90.12	+0.78
WTI(Nov)	86.81	+0.66
WTI(Dec)	86.00	+0.68

Products ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Unld	951.00	955.00	+25.00
Gasoil EEC	1008.75	1009.75	+47.25
3.5 Fuel Oil	546.00	550.00	-9.00
Naphtha	686.00	700.00	+5.00

ICE Futures

Gas Oil

Sep	982.00-981.50	Dec	889.50-889.25
Oct	960.75-960.50	Jan	872.00-871.25
Nov	926.25-926.00		Volume: 756428

Brent (9.00pm)

Nov	90.77-90.76	Feb	88.55-88.51
Dec	90.09-90.08	Mar	87.81-87.78
Jan	89.32-89.30		Volume: 1908957

LIFFE

Cocoa

Sep	3050-3038	Dec	2764-2647
Dec	3053-3052	Mar	2715-2598
Mar	2987-2960	May	2409-2588
May	2906-2904		
Jul	2873-2759		
Sep	2810-2798		Volume: 90804

RobustaCoffee

Sep	2640-2560	May	2249-2232
Nov	2400-2397	Jul	2284-2100
Jan	2309-2305		
Mar	2300-2250		Volume: 10013

White Sugar (FOB)

Reuters		May	700.60-697.50
		Aug	672.30-669.30
Oct	729.80-729.20	Oct	647.00-643.60
Dec	717.40-716.80	Dec	644.40-625.10
Mar	712.90-711.90		Volume: 73442

London Grain Futures

LIFFE Wheat (close £/t)

Nov	186.00	Jan	unq
Mar	unq		
May	197.50	Jul	unq
Volume: 1127			

London Metal Exchange (Official)

Cash	3mth	Dec 22
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)		
8223.0-8225.0	8240.0-8242.0	8325.0-8335.0
Lead ($/tonne)		
2283.0-2285.0	2217.0-2219.0	2217.0-2222.0
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)		
2405.5-2406.0	2429.5-2430.0	2460.0-2465.0
Alum Hi Gde ($/tonne)		
2132.0-2132.5	2180.0-2181.0	2327.0-2332.0
Nickel ($/tonne)		
19900.0-19905.0	20100.0-20125.0	21230.0-21280.0
Tin ($/tonne)		15mth
25315.0-25335.0	25600.0-25650.0	25220.0-25270.0

Eurotop 100

	Close	+/-	12mthhigh	12mthlow	Yield	P/E
RWE AG	37.50	-1.40	43.98	34.57		36.74
Swatch Group AG	248.70	-1.10	342.70	217.20	2.35	18.66
AP Moller-Maersk A Dn Kr	12090.00	-60.00	16940.00	11000.00		2.01
AP Moller-Maersk B Dn Kr	12300.00	-70.00	17265.00	11100.00		2.04
ABB Ltd S SF	32.87	-0.48	35.74	23.86	2.52	16.61
Air Liquide Fr €	165.48	-0.14	168.48	114.48	1.77	31.21
Airbus Fr €	135.44	-0.98	138.76	86.52	1.38	25.37
Allianz G €	222.25	+1.00	228.40	156.22		14.35
Anglo American UK p	2023.50	-2.00	3648.50	16.78		4.01
Anheuser-Busch InBev B €	52.42	-0.06	62.01	45.56	1.47	26.72
Arcelor Mittal	24.21	-0.05	30.52	19.40	0.82	2.09
ASML Holding Nl €	586.70	-6.80	698.10	376.10	0.97	46.30
AstraZeneca UK p	10848.00	+24.00	12828.45	9499.21		1836.44
Atlas Copco A Sw Kr	146.75	-0.30	165.00	98.86		8.75
Atlas Copco B Sw Kr	128.60	-0.35	140.95	89.48		7.66
AXA Fr €	27.71	+0.18	30.34	21.79	6.10	9.53
Banco Santander Es €	3.41	+0.03	3.87	2.35	3.28	6.98
BBVA Es €	6.97	+0.03	7.56	4.49	6.03	9.70
Barclays UK p	147.32	-0.66	198.86	128.12		3.60
BASF G €	44.48	-0.64	53.77	37.90		7.53
Bayer G €	50.19	-0.05	65.66	47.01		50.30
BHP Group UK p	2208.10	-14.90	2862.00	2028.00		9.65
BMW G €	95.62	+0.59	113.46	68.44		5.21
BNP Paribas Fr €	58.43	-0.14	67.02	41.53	6.57	8.60
BP UK p	517.40	+2.60	570.57	4.75		
British Am Tob UK p	2592.00	+10.50	3536.50	2471.00		8.77
BT Group UK p	112.25	-1.75	161.40	22.98		10.89
Centrica UK p	162.05	+2.75	162.20	65.78		16.35
Christian Dior Fr €	714.00	+12.50	872.00	578.50	1.65	26.64
Compagnie de Saint-Gobain	56.49	-1.11	62.13	35.18		13.83
CS Group S SF	0.82	+0.01	5.86	0.66		
Mercedes-Benz Group AG	65.83	+0.53	76.10	50.65		6.73
Danone Fr €	53.57	+0.35	61.88	46.78	3.77	18.62
Deutsche Bank G €	9.65	+0.07	12.36	7.46		9.71
Deutsche Telekom G €	20.14	+0.13	23.13	17.36		23.66
Diageo UK p	3185.85	+10.85	3937.00	38.56		24.62
EON G €	11.44	+0.07	12.29	7.28		6.50
EDF Fr €	12.00		12.05	7.27		9.44
Enel It €	6.19	-0.02	6.38	3.96	6.66	29.44
Engie (FR)	14.83	+0.17	15.56	11.35	9.46	10.67
ENI It €	14.80	+0.06	14.98	10.43	6.03	6.37
Fresenius Medical Care Ag & Co	73.67	-0.85	83.15	63.51		20.87
GlaxoSmKline UK p	1448.20	+60.00	1609.00	16.64		16.68
Glencore Xstrata	428.00	+4.50	583.25	410.95		15.59
Heineken NV Nl €	87.00	+0.48	106.30	78.28	2.15	15.41
Henkel KGaA G €	64.00	-0.04	70.10	56.55		17.40
Henkel KGaA Pref G €	71.32	-0.60	78.84	59.12		19.39
Hermes Intl SCA Fr €	1849.40	+15.00	2050.50	1161.50	0.67	81.13
HSBC UK p	584.40	-0.30	665.60	434.70		12.77
Iberdrola Es €	10.91	+0.05	12.25	9.09	4.62	19.13
Imperial Tobacco UK p	1757.00	+12.50	2185.00	1692.50		5.87
Inditex Es €	35.29	+0.22	35.67	20.53	2.30	38.04
ING Nl €	12.73	+0.01	13.57	8.43	5.70	10.58
Intesa Sanpaolo It €	2.41	+0.03	2.64	1.64	6.85	76.46
Linde G €	361.50	+0.95	363.40	272.55		57.40
Lloyds Bkg Gp UK p	41.02	-0.01	54.33	38.51		5.74
L'Oreal Fr €	404.25	+5.85	442.60	300.70	1.46	50.33
LVMH Fr €	740.00	+15.90	904.60	594.90	1.53	31.66
Munich Re G €	363.00	+2.20	363.60	231.10		17.73
Natl Grid UK p	997.40	+2.60	1229.21	844.29		23.23
Nestle S SF	105.30	-0.08	117.00	102.80		
Novartis S SF	88.12	-0.51	93.95	73.32	3.61	10.08
Orange	10.79	+0.02	11.87	9.08	6.87	3661.42
Pernod Ricard NV Fr €	174.50	+0.05	218.00	170.90	2.35	26.92
Philips Elect Nl €	19.52	-0.43	20.94	12.13		29.78
Prudential UK p	899.60	-3.80	1357.50	782.40		14.56
Reckitt Benckiser UK p	6498.00	+6.00	8020.00	5782.00		
Richemont S SF	117.00	+0.95	161.10	91.80	1.92	29.39
Rio Tinto UK p	4824.00	-23.00	6354.00	4473.00		5.06
Roche Hldgs S SF	279.20	+2.20	409.60	267.00	3.42	19.71
Rolls-Royce UK p	220.28	-3.52	225.41	64.44		149.93
Royal Bank Scot UK p	120.90	-0.45	265.00	100.34		4.76
Shell	2502.50	+0.50	2613.50	2149.45		13.19
Sanofi-Aventis Fr €	100.34	+0.66	105.18	77.01	3.63	20.73
SAP G €	131.48	+1.22	131.70	81.35		30.13
Schneider Electric Fr €	157.12	+0.14	167.98	111.24	1.98	28.32
Siemens G €	137.12	+0.66	167.00	95.07		21.08
Standard Chartered UK p	705.60	+0.40	799.40	515.60		15.82
Swatch Gp BR S SF	248.70	-1.10	342.70	217.20	2.35	18.66
Swiss Re AG S SF	88.92	+0.44	99.68	68.18	6.80	22.63
Telefonica Es €	3.85	+0.01	4.15	3.22	7.81	2.87
Tenaris SA It €	14.97	+0.21	17.87	11.63	3.13	12.43
Tesco UK p	258.80	+3.30	307.23	194.35		13.17
TotalEnergies	39.69	+0.87	42.19	24.51		7.83
UBS AG S SF	22.76	-0.17	23.79	13.88	2.11	11.01
Unilever NV Nl €	47.06	+0.19	50.93	43.94	3.63	24.16
Vinci Fr €	102.96	+0.46	112.40	80.84	3.89	23.33
Vivendi Fr €	8.19	+0.03	10.22	7.59	2.95	
Vodafone Group UK p	73.16	-0.76	112.72	69.73		
Volkswagen G €	121.25	+1.00	204.30	119.05		4.19
Volvo B Sw Kr	219.90	+0.60	233.85	154.42		12.79
Zurich Fin S SF	411.00	-2.60	458.30	384.60	5.80	14.43

Money rates %

Base Rates Clearing Banks 5.25 ECB Refi 4.25 US Fed Fund 5.25-5.50

Halifax Mortgage Rate (SVR) 8.74

Sterling spot and forward rates

Mkt Rates for	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Copenhagen	8.6810-8.7038	8.6831-8.6844	148ds	458ds
Euro	1.1671-1.1643	1.1644-1.1643	12pr	37pr
Montreal	1.6984-1.7089	1.6987-1.6990	6ds	21ds
New York	1.2485-1.2512	1.2466-1.2466	1pr	1pr
Oslo	13.292-13.361	13.300-13.306	107ds	301ds
Stockholm	13.834-13.911	13.860-13.865	198ds	566ds
Tokyo	183.18-184.45	184.17-184.18	88ds	265ds
Zurich	1.1112-1.1147	1.1130-1.1136	35ds	106ds

Premium = pr Discount = ds

FTSE volumes

(000s)

3i	620
abrdn	6,943
Admiral	325
Airtel Africa PLC	1,607
Ang Am	3,637
Antofagasta	1,348
Ashtead	529
AB Foods	813
AstraZeneca	1,151
Auto Trader	653
Aviva	14,528
B&M European	1,332
BAE Sys	2,016
Barclays	39,056
Barratt Devs	1,355
BHP Group	1,457
Berkeley	243
BP	21,835
Brit Amer Tob	3,053
BT Group	14,485
Bunzl	470
Burberry Grp	1,448
Centrica	15,567
Coca Cola HBC	323
Compass	2,493
Convatec	8,165
CRH	1,814
Croda	255
DCC	111
Diageo	2,959
Endeavour Mining PLC	463
Entain	3,074
Experian	617
F&C Investment Tr	285
Flutter Ent	244
Frasers Group	384
Fresnillo	569
Glencore	17,845
GlaxoSmKline	7,113
Haleon	14,071
Halma	439
Hargreaves L	774
Hiscox	564
HSBC	10,132
IMI	427
Imperial Brands	923
Informa	5,919
Intercont Htls	771
Intl Cons Air	6,643
Intertek	219
JD Sports	11,600
Johnson Math	312
Kingfisher	1,751
Land Sec	640
Legal & Gen	14,024
Lloyds Bkg Gp	126,510
Lond Stk Ex Gp	1,201
M&G	3,843
Melrose	11,397
Mondi	977
Natl Grid	2,900
NatWest Gr	28,389
Next	170
Ocado Gp	1,318
Pearson	1,432
Pershing Sq	232
Persimmon	958
Phoenix Gp	1,430
Prudential	11,363
Reckitt Benck	1,732
Relx	2,131
Rentokil Itl	2,335
Rightmove	1,360
Rio Tinto	2,219
Rolls-Royce	12,936
RS Group	688
Sage Gp	2,780
Sainsbury J	2,127
Schroders	869
Scot Mtge	1,589
Segro	853
Severn Trent	420
Shell PLC	5,691
Smith & Neph	3,962
Smith (DS)	2,170
Smiths	542
Smurfit Kappa	547
Spirax-Sarco	92
SSE	2,973
St James Place	516
Stand Chart	4,816
Taylor Wimpey	6,154
Tesco	12,243
Unilever	3,429
Unite Group	381
Utd Utilities	726
Vodafone Gp	54,534
Weir	382
Whitbread	496
WPP	1,701

European money deposits %

Currency	1mth	3mth	6mth	12mth
Dollar	0.13	0.20	0.29	0.55
Sterling	4.20	5.56	4.74	0.81
Euro	0.10	0.15	0.20	0.50

Gold/precious metals

Because of a technical issue, the gold fix prices are from Thursday.

Bullion: Open $1920.09
Close $1918.53-1918.68 High $1929.28
Low $1918.53
AM $1919.85 **PM** $1918.35
Platinum $ (£)
Silver $22.90 (£18.37)
Palladium $ (£)

Dollar rates

Australia	1.5664-1.5674
Canada	1.3628-1.3629
Denmark	6.9659-6.9664
Euro	0.9340-0.9341
Hong Kong	7.8394-7.8396
Japan	147.74-147.74
Malaysia	4.6770-4.6800
Norway	10.668-10.675
Singapore	1.3655-1.3656
Sweden	11.115-11.124
Switzerland	0.8928-0.8932

Other Sterling

Argentina peso	436.23-436.24
Australia dollar	1.9534-1.9536
Bahrain dinar	0.4668-0.4738
Brazil real	6.2053-6.2091
Euro	1.1643-1.1644
Hong Kong dollar	9.7719-9.7730
India rupee	103.50-103.51
Indonesia rupiah	19138-19155
Kuwait dinar KD	0.3837-0.3860
Malaysia ringgit	5.8346-5.8383
New Zealand dollar	2.1157-2.1161
Singapore dollar	1.7021-1.7024
S Africa rand	23.860-23.871
U A E dirham	4.5830-4.5832

Exchange rates

	Bid	Change
Australia $	1.953	
Canada $	1.702	
Denmark Kr	8.690	
Euro €	1.165	
Hong Kong $	9.789	+0.01
Hungary	448.673	-2.80
Indonesia	19134.007	+12.89
Israel Shk	4.799	
Japan Yen	184.367	+0.84
New Zealand $	2.116	-0.01
Norway Kr	13.312	-0.05
Poland	5.371	-0.01
Russia	122.514	-0.32
S Africa Rd	23.825	-0.09
Sweden Kr	13.855	-0.04
Switzerland Fr	1.113	
Turkey Lira	33.522	+0.03
USA $	1.249	

Rates supplied by Morningstar

MORNINGSTAR Data as shown is for information purposes only. No offer is made by Morningstar or this publication

Unit-linked insurance investments Full funds service at thetimes.co.uk/funds

ABBEY LIFE
01202 292373
80 Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth BH8 8AL

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
American Ser 4	4027.40	4239.30	+11.40	...
Custodian S4	557.40	586.70	-1.60	...
Equity Ser 4	780.40	821.50	-0.30	...
Ethical S4	409.60	431.10	+0.20	...
European S4	964.60	1015.40	-14.20	...
Fixed Int Ser 4	768.10	808.60	-5.40	...
High Inc Ser 4	2567.80	2702.90	-1.40	...
International S4	828.60	872.20	+0.80	...
Japan Ser 4	561.60	591.10	+13.20	...
Man Ser 4	2296.20	2417.10	-3.40	...
Money Ser 4	538.20	566.50	+0.40	...
Prop Fd Ser 4	978.20	1029.70	-0.90	...
Protected Gth S4	213.80	225.00	...	...

Fomerly Hill Samuel Life Assurance Ltd

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Equity Fund	2998.00	3172.50	-1.00	...
European Fund	5051.50	5345.50	-73.90	...
Fixed Intl	854.90	904.70	-5.90	...
Income Fund	3191.80	3377.50	-24.20	...
International	2240.40	2370.80	+2.30	...
Managed Series A	2158.40	2284.10	-4.00	...
Managed Units	3942.00	4149.40	-7.10	...
Money Series A	489.20	517.70	+0.30	...
Money Units	691.30	727.70	+0.50	...
Property Series A	1351.00	1429.60	-1.10	...
Property Units	2500.00	2631.60	-1.90	...
Smaller Cos	2603.20	2754.70	-23.30	...

Formerly Target Life Assurance Co Ltd

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Deposit	362.70	381.80	+0.30	...
Financial Ser 1	259.20	272.90	+0.20	...
Fixed Interest	569.70	599.70	-4.00	...
Managed	2117.30	2228.70	-3.80	...
Mngd Growth	819.80	863.00	+0.20	...
Property	796.90	838.80	-0.70	...
TSB Intl	1584.60	1668.00	+1.50	...

AEGON SCOTTISH EQUITABLE
08456 100010
Edinburgh Park, Edinburgh EH12 9SE

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
American	2211.33	2327.72	+7.97	...
Cash	282.33	297.19	+0.18	...
Distribution	93.42	98.33	-0.26	...
Ethical	637.75	671.31	-5.04	...
European	1329.82	1399.81	-15.70	...
Fixed Interest	454.55	478.47	-2.64	...
Global	381.32	401.39	+0.47	...
International	1150.31	1210.86	+2.18	...
Japan	463.31	487.69	+14.70	...
Mixed	937.97	987.33	-1.32	...
Pacific	1521.78	1601.88	+13.36	...
Technology	5553.92	5846.23	+48.40	...
UK Equity	892.95	939.95	-6.73	...

ALBA LIFE
50 Bothwell St, Glasgow G2 6HR
0141 248 2000
Formerly Britannia
Life

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
European	1625.50	1711.10	-21.80	...
Far East	617.00	649.50	+11.60	...
Fixed Interest	756.70	796.50	-4.70	...
International	1447.10	1523.30	+4.80	...
Japan	741.90	780.90	+26.80	...
Managed Fund	1493.50	1572.10	-2.00	...
Money Market	408.90	430.40	+0.30	...
North America	1499.70	1578.60	+11.60	...
Property	974.40	1025.70	-0.80	...
UK Equity	2620.00	2757.90	-13.20	...

Pensions

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Equity	1845.20	1942.30	-9.10	...
European	2042.50	2150.00	-33.50	...
Far Eastern	496.10	522.20	+11.60	...
Fixed Interest	763.00	803.20	-6.00	...
International	1248.90	1314.60	+5.00	...
Japan	361.80	380.80	+15.80	...
Managed	1056.10	1111.70	-1.80	...
Money Market	486.50	512.10	+0.40	...
North America	2234.40	2352.00	+19.90	...
Property	893.60	940.60	+0.10	...

AXA SUN LIFE
PO Box 1810, Bristol BS99 5SN
AXA Assurance - 02476 235500
Sun Life - 0117 989 3000
AXA Equity & Law - 02476 235400
Life Assnce - AXA Equity & Law Series 6. 1% AMC

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Balced Ser 6	2605.00	2742.10	-3.50	...
Distribution Ser 6	90.00	94.80	-0.40	...
Europe Ser 6	2091.70	2201.80	-15.00	...
Higher Inc Ser 6	4864.20	5120.20	-38.30	...
Property Ser 6	1526.10	1606.50	-2.10	...
UK Equities Ser 6	4039.10	4251.70	-25.80	...

Life Funds - Sun Life (inc Birmingham Midshires)& AXA Assurance 1% AMC

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash Acc	483.10	508.50	+2.10	...
Deffrd Dist	689.90	726.30	-2.70	...
Distribution Fund	335.40	353.00	-1.20	...
Equity Acc	5907.00	6217.90	-37.70	...
European	987.80	1039.80	-7.10	...
Far Eastern Acc	2218.20	2334.90	+42.90	...
Fixed Int Acc	897.60	944.80	-4.60	...
Global Eqty Acc	2668.80	2809.30	+18.50	...
Japan Acc	375.60	395.40	+10.90	...
Managed Acc	3193.00	3361.00	-4.30	...
North Amer Acc	3321.50	3496.30	+46.90	...
Pacific Acc	1643.90	1730.50	+25.40	...
Property Acc	1164.90	1226.20	-1.50	...

BARCLAYS LIFE ASSURANCE CO LTD
0845 603 5000
Level 12, 1 Churchill Place, London E14 5HP

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
500 Accum	1455.21	1531.80	-7.49	...
America Acc	2962.58	3118.51	+24.24	...
Comb Inc Acc	2713.40	2856.21	+2.74	...
Equity Acc	3889.36	4094.06	-20.13	...
Far East Gwth	1250.02	1315.81	+1.96	...
Gilt 2 Init	198.35	208.79	-1.59	...
Gilt Edged Acc	816.13	859.08	-5.95	...
Inter 2 Init	484.94	510.46	+0.15	...
International Acc	1993.92	2098.86	+1.94	...
Japan Acc	473.31	498.22	+16.22	...
Managed 2 Init	546.95	575.74	+0.19	...
Managed Acc	2241.28	2359.24	+2.27	...
Managed Alpha	1663.60	1751.16	-8.56	...
Money Acc	440.25	463.42	+0.30	...
Prop 2 Init	215.99	227.35	-1.66	...
Property Acc	883.16	929.64	-6.21	...
UK Growth Acc	1228.42	1293.08	-6.36	...
Univ Tech Acc	870.36	916.16	+0.85	...

& AXA Assurance 1% AM

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Equity 2 Init	943.35	993.00	-5.52	...

CANADA LIFE
01707 651122
2-6 High Street, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5BA

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash	320.20	337.00	-0.10	...
CLife Euro Mgd	1684.00	1772.00	-44.00	...
CLife Intl Fd	1662.00	1749.00	-16.00	...
Deposit Fund	529.00	556.80	+0.40	...
Equity	1174.00	1235.00	-17.00	...
Equity Fund	3038.00	3197.00	-19.00	...
European	1903.00	2003.00	-24.00	...
Fixed Interest	908.10	955.80	-7.40	...
Gilt & Fxd Int	631.20	664.40	+5.30	...
Gilt Edged Fd	1110.00	1168.00	-10.00	...
International	2751.00	2895.00	+14.00	...
Intl Mgd	3706.00	3901.00	+17.00	...
Investment Fd	1466.00	1539.00	-25.00	...
Japanese	402.40	423.50	+11.40	...
Managed	1291.00	1358.00	-9.00	...
Managed Fund	2741.00	2885.00	+2.00	...
ML Intl Fxd Int	697.00	733.60	-0.30	...
Money	543.40	571.90	+0.40	...
Multiple Inv	3477.00	3660.00	...	...
North Amer	2509.00	2641.00	+20.00	...
Property	1020.00	1073.00	+2.00	...
Property Fund	1811.00	1906.00	+1.00	...
UK Equity	4625.00	4868.00	-33.00	...
UK Property	1281.00	1348.00	+1.00	...

CLERICAL MEDICAL INVESTMENT GROUP
Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH 0117 9290566
Life Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash	301.07	316.91	+0.18	...
Dist Acc S2	199.71	199.71	-0.79	...
Fidelity Bal	1169.70	1231.26	-2.26	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	474.96	499.96	-1.13	...
Non Eqty	387.93	408.34	-0.65	...
Nth American	3181.31	3348.75	+6.55	...
Property	662.48	697.35	-0.26	...
UK Gwth	1315.09	1384.31	-7.42	...
With Prof Bd S2	122.80	122.80	...	...
With Profits Flex	129.20	129.20	...	...
With Profits Reg	407.50	429.00	+0.20	...

Pension Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash	344.37	362.50	+0.28	...
European	2083.40	2193.05	-24.79	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	530.80	558.73	-2.25	...
Halifax	142.88	150.40	...	...
Nth American	4905.27	5163.45	+17.08	...
PP Bal Pens	1169.90	1231.48	-2.68	...
PP Caut Pens	373.91	393.59	-1.31	...
PP UK Gth Pens	1145.73	1206.03	-6.46	...
PP UK Prop Pens	720.52	758.45	-0.11	...
With Profits Reg	746.30	785.60	+0.60	...
With Profits Spec	739.30	778.30	+0.50	...

COUNTRYWIDE ASSURED
Harbour House, Portway, Preston, Lancs PR2 2PR
CA Funds 0800 262536

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Deposit Life	224.80	236.60	+0.10	...
Deposit Pen	316.10	332.70	+0.20	...
Intl Life	1029.00	1083.10	+2.70	...
Intl Pen	1419.50	1494.20	+4.60	...
Mgd Life	788.70	830.20	+0.30	...
Mgd Pen	1175.40	1237.20	+0.50	...
UK Eqty Life	834.40	878.30	-2.90	...
UK Eqty Pen	1077.80	1134.50	-3.30	...

CWA Series Funds 0870 600 0014

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Equity Fd	1776.90	1870.40	-3.20	...
Glob Cash	369.80	389.30	+0.30	...
Glob Eqty	3590.10	3779.10	+24.20	...
Glob Fxd Int	1241.50	1306.80	-5.10	...
Glob Mgd	2358.20	2482.30	-3.10	...
Glob Prop	767.00	807.40	-1.60	...
Managed Fd	2947.00	3102.10	-3.80	...
Property Fd	630.50	663.70	-1.30	...

FRIENDS PROVIDENT
01722 413366
Castle Street, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 3SH

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash	329.40	346.70	+0.20	...
European	1560.40	1642.60	-14.10	...
Fixed Inter Life	642.80	676.60	-3.30	...
Index Linked	544.50	573.20	-7.80	...
Managed	1139.90	1199.90	+0.70	...
North American	1314.10	1383.30	+17.70	...
Overseas Equity	1847.20	1944.50	+12.10	...
Pacific Basin	567.80	597.70	+11.10	...
Property	671.70	707.10	+0.10	...
Stewardship	1700.60	1790.10	-17.20	...
UK Equity	1770.10	1863.30	-4.20	...

Formerly London & Manchester Assurance

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Equity Ex Cap ‡	...	...	-1.10	...
Equity Life ‡	...	...	-4.80	...
Fixed Interest ‡	...	...	-3.60	...
Fxd Int Ex Cap ‡	...	...	-0.80	...
Gtd Dep Ex Cap ‡	...	...	...	...
Guaranteed Deposit ‡	...	...	+0.30	...
Inter Life ‡	...	...	+11.50	...
Intl Ex Cap ‡	...	...	+1.80	...
Prop Ex Cap ‡	...	...	-0.10	...
Prop Life ‡	...	...	...	...

FP Life Assurance ex NM

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
American	3520.10	3705.40	+47.10	...
Deposit	550.70	579.70	+0.30	...
European	3793.30	3992.90	-34.40	...
Fixed Interest	1339.50	1410.00	-6.90	...
Income Acc	4015.20	4226.50	-21.30	...
Income Dist	677.10	712.70	-3.60	...
International	1828.20	1924.40	+11.90	...
Managed	2544.90	2678.80	+1.40	...
Mixed	1776.00	1869.50	-17.90	...
Property	1888.90	1988.30	+0.30	...
Singapore & Mal	1235.50	1300.50	+18.20	...
Tokyo Fund	1157.30	1218.20	+34.00	...
UK Equity	2445.20	2573.90	-5.90	...

Friends Prov (London & Manchester) Ass Ltd Fd

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Capital Gth Acc ‡	...	...	+10.90	...
Flexible Acc ‡	...	...	+0.70	...
Flexible Cap ‡	...	...	-0.10	...
Inv Trust Acc ‡	...	...	+2.90	...
Inv Trust Cap ‡	...	...	-0.10	...
Moneymaker Acc ‡	...	...	+3.00	...

GUARDIAN
01253 733151
Ballam Rd, Lytham St Annes, Lancashire FY8 4JZ

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Deposit	446.30	469.70	+0.40	...
Equity Life	4638.00	4882.10	-10.60	...
European	723.50	761.60	+2.30	...
Fixed Interest	1604.60	1689.10	-8.00	...
Index Linked	606.20	638.10	-3.00	...
Inter Life	2891.40	3043.60	+9.10	...
Managed Life	2739.50	2883.70	+0.60	...
North American	1485.70	1563.90	+4.70	...
Pacific	897.00	944.20	+2.90	...
Prop Life	1040.80	1095.60	+0.20	...

HALIFAX LIFE LTD
PO Box 285, York YO1 1YB 01904 611110
Life Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Balanced	99.48	104.72	-0.10	...
Deposit	36.08	37.98	...	...
Foundation	103.03	108.45	-0.12	...
Opportunity	121.06	127.43	-0.10	...

Pension Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Balanced S2	102.00	107.37	-0.11	...
Deposit S2	41.68	43.87	...	...
Foundation S2	102.99	108.42	-0.14	...
Opportunity S2	121.48	127.87	-0.07	...

INVESCO FUNDS MGMT LTD
Alban Gate, 14th Flr, 125 London Wall, Lond EC2Y 5AS 020 7710 4567
Formerly GT Global Fund Mgmt Ltd

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Plan Far East	554.30	583.40	...	...
Plan Wwide	924.50	973.20	-0.10	...

LEGAL & GENERAL INVESTMENT MGMT
0203 1243000
One Coleman Street, EC2R 5AA

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
B Soc Lnkd Init	136.20	143.40	...	...
Brit Opps Int	221.20	232.80	-3.70	...
British Opp	808.80	851.30	...	...
Building Soc Linked	283.40	298.30	...	...
Cash	447.10	470.70	+0.20	...
Cash Initial	119.10	125.40	-0.30	...
Equity	4710.30	4958.20	-25.20	...
Equity Initial	1073.10	1129.60	-14.50	...
Fixed Initial	463.80	488.20	+3.70	...
Fixed Interest	1308.20	1377.10	-8.50	...
Index Linked Gilt	607.70	639.70	-8.50	...
Index Lkd	270.30	284.50	+0.60	...
International	2498.70	2630.20	-3.20	...
Intl Initial	537.00	565.30	-6.40	...
Life Property	1428.80	1504.00	+4.10	...
Managed	3070.90	3232.50	-8.50	...
Managed Initial	770.70	811.30	-3.70	...
Property Initial	349.80	368.20	-0.60	...

LINCOLN FINANCIAL GROUP
Barnett Way, Barnwood, Gloucester GL4 3RZ
01452 371371 For further prices 0800 7315139
Life

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Aggressive Mgd 4	719.00	756.80	-2.20	...
Balanced Mgd 3	1622.60	1708.00	+1.20	...
Cautious Mgd 2	490.90	516.70	-1.90	...
European	801.80	844.00	-10.20	...
Far Eastern	1675.70	1763.80	+12.10	...
Framlington	215.60	227.00	+0.40	...
Green	631.40	664.60	-1.00	...
International	630.60	663.70	+3.70	...
Japan	295.60	311.10	+5.80	...
North Amer	4348.20	4577.00	+29.50	...
Perpetual	468.00	492.60	-1.30	...
Schroders	1479.10	1556.90	+14.40	...
Select Mgd	147.80	155.60	-0.30	...
UK Eqty Inc	1540.30	1621.30	-39.50	...
UK Equity Gwth	2199.40	2315.10	-2.30	...
UK Fxd Int	486.90	512.50	-4.50	...

Pension

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Aggressive Mgd 4	1003.20	1055.90	-3.70	...
Balanced Mgd 3	3687.60	3881.60	+1.60	...
Cautious Mgd 2	815.90	858.80	-3.90	...
European	1243.50	1308.90	-19.30	...
Far Eastern	2635.00	2773.60	+21.90	...
Framlington	258.10	271.70	+0.80	...
Green	1017.80	1071.30	-1.90	...
International	933.30	982.40	+5.10	...
Japan	367.90	387.20	+6.60	...
North Amer	12801.00	13474.70	+108.90	...
Perpetual	566.20	595.90	-1.90	...
Schroders	2846.70	2996.50	+33.90	...
Select Mgd	158.90	167.30	-0.30	...
UK Eqty Gwth	3887.00	4091.50	-5.20	...
UK Eqty Inc	2512.60	2644.80	-64.20	...
UK Fxd Int	1042.60	1097.40	-9.40	...

LLOYDS TSB LIFE LTD
01634 834000
Mountbatten Hse, Chatham, Kent
Life Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Equity	1677.70	1766.00	+0.40	...
Managed	3683.00	3683.00	-1.70	...
Income	3313.20	3487.60	-19.80	...
Managed Inv	1907.20	2007.60	-1.00	...

Life Funds-Series Two-Current Series

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
American	3507.30	3691.90	+23.60	...
Balanced	2502.50	2634.20	-12.40	...
Cash	420.20	442.30	+0.20	...
European Gth	892.20	939.20	-10.30	...
Fixed Interest	703.10	740.10	-4.60	...
German Growth	1639.70	1726.00	-30.40	...
Income	3056.50	3217.40	-18.40	...
Japan Growth	345.90	364.20	+8.90	...
Managed Inv	2077.30	2186.60	-1.10	...
Pacific Basin	1363.90	1435.60	+17.20	...
Property	1558.20	1640.20	-1.70	...
Smllr Cos Recov	4625.40	4868.80	-21.70	...
Worldwide Gth	2115.20	2226.50	+13.90	...

Pension Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
American Pens	2157.90	2271.50	+16.90	...
Cash Pen	318.50	335.30	+0.20	...
European Pen	1662.70	1750.30	-22.70	...
Far East Pen	577.50	607.90	+7.90	...
Fixed Int Pen	491.10	516.90	-4.00	...
FTSE 100	394.20	414.90	-2.40	...
Managed Pen	1013.90	1067.30	-1.30	...
Property Pen	952.50	1002.60	-0.90	...
UK Equity Pen	780.20	821.30	-3.90	...

LONDON LIFE
0117 984 7777
Spectrum, Bond Street, Bristol, BS1 3AL

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Deposit	520.30	520.30	+0.40	...
Deposit A	298.10	313.80	+0.20	...
Deposit P	691.10	691.10	+0.60	...
Equity	4100.30	4100.30	-9.20	...
Equity A	911.00	959.00	-2.10	...
Equity P	3567.80	3567.80	-10.00	...
Fixed Int A	460.80	485.10	-2.80	...
Fixed Int P	1642.60	1642.60	-12.80	...
Fixed Interest	1084.40	1084.40	-6.70	...
Index Stock A	500.00	526.40	-9.10	...
Index Stock P	829.40	829.40	-19.10	...
Indexed Stock	666.70	666.70	-12.10	...
International	1512.10	1512.10	+3.10	...
International A	904.80	952.50	+1.90	...
International P	2001.00	2001.00	+4.50	...
Mixed	2391.40	2391.40	-1.00	...
Mixed A	752.70	792.40	-0.40	...
Mixed P	2377.90	2377.90	+1.10	...
Property	795.70	795.70	+0.60	...
Property A	341.10	359.10	+0.20	...
Property P	634.70	634.70	+0.50	...

MERCHANT INVESTORS ASSURANCE CO LTD
St Bartholomews House, Lewins Mead Bristol BS1 2NH

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Far East	731.20	769.70	-2.40	...
Gilt Edged	1233.50	1298.40	-9.60	...
Interest Fund	569.30	599.30	+0.30	...
Intl Equity	2152.90	2266.20	+4.40	...
Managed Fd	1234.60	1299.60	+0.10	...
North American	838.30	882.40	+6.10	...
Property	1402.20	1476.00	+0.30	...
UK Equity	1131.00	1190.50	+2.60	...

MGM ASSURANCE
MGM House, Heene Road, Worthing BN11 2DY 01903 836000

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Deposit	114.48	120.50	-0.08	...
Deposit Acc	379.73	399.71	+0.28	...
Fixed Interest	387.54	407.93	-3.32	...
Fixed Interest Acc	1108.21	1166.54	-3.79	...
Managed	483.36	508.80	-9.19	...
Managed Acc	1571.03	1653.71	+2.08	...
Property	250.17	263.34	-0.42	...
Property Acc	817.88	860.92	-0.33	...

NAT WEST LIFE ASSCE LTD
PO Box 886, Trinity Quay, Bristol BS99 5LJ

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Growth Mgd Pens	569.88	599.87	-1.15	...

NORWICH UNION LIFE INSURANCE SOCIETY - Ex NUAM Funds
PO Box 140, Norwich NR3 1PP
01603 622200

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Deposit Fund	621.43	654.13	+0.49	...
Eqity Fund	16006.51	16848.96	-101.40	...
Fixed Int Fd	1547.95	1629.42	-10.51	...
Higher Inc Plus	220.02	231.60	-0.44	...
Intl Fund	1325.03	1394.77	+3.97	...
Managed Fund	6391.51	6727.91	-11.11	...
Property Fd	2425.39	2553.04	+1.17	...

Formerly Commercial Union

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash	314.00	330.50	+0.20	...
Fxd Int	488.70	514.40	-3.40	...
Index-Lnkd	494.70	520.70	-7.60	...
Int Equity	1453.80	1530.30	+4.20	...
Managed	1454.50	1531.10	-2.70	...
Property	821.90	865.10	+0.30	...
UK Equity	1933.30	2035.00	-12.40	...
Var Ann (5) ‡	...	...	+1.30	...
Var Ann Acc (5) ‡	...	...	+87.80	...

Formerly General Accident

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
American	1577.20	1660.20	+13.40	...
Cash Deposit	266.10	280.10	+0.20	...
Conv Life	431.60	454.20	...	...
European	1145.50	1205.80	-12.40	...
Fixed Int	410.40	432.00	-2.90	...
Index-Linked	480.30	505.50	-7.30	...
International	920.90	969.40	+4.70	...
Japan	425.30	447.70	+13.60	...
Japan Smllr Cos	435.10	458.00	+14.00	...
Managed	735.10	773.80	-1.30	...
Pacific Fund	974.70	1026.00	+8.60	...
Property	596.70	628.10	+0.20	...
UK Equity	1106.80	1165.00	-7.10	...
Unitised Profit	416.70	438.60	+0.20	...

Formerly Provident Mutual

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Deposit Initial	87.00	91.60	...	...
Deposit Ord	328.00	345.20	+0.30	...
Equity Init	755.70	795.50	-5.30	...
Equity Ord	2890.80	3043.00	-18.60	...
Fixed Int Init	164.90	173.50	-1.20	...
Fixed Int Ord	619.90	652.60	-4.30	...
I-Linked Gilt Init	175.70	185.00	-2.80	...
I-Linked Gilt Ord	604.50	636.30	-9.30	...
Managed Initial	458.20	482.30	-1.10	...
Managed Ord	1734.10	1825.40	-3.10	...
Oseas Equity Init	473.70	498.60	+1.10	...
Oseas Equity Ord	1897.40	1997.30	+5.50	...
Property Init	254.60	268.00	-0.10	...
Property Ord	957.40	1007.80	+0.40	...

NPI
020 7477 5567
55 Moorgate, London EC2

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Americas	2701.50	2843.70	+17.90	...
Deposit	367.50	386.90	+0.30	...
Far East	1671.40	1759.40	+14.00	...
Fixed Interest	886.30	933.00	-5.50	...
Indexed Gilt	639.80	673.50	-11.60	...
Managed	1689.90	1778.90	-0.10	...
Overseas Equity	2428.40	2556.30	+3.90	...
UK Equity	2470.50	2600.60	-7.70	...

PEARL
The Pearl Centre, Lynch Wood, Peterborough PE2 6FY 01733 470 470

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Inv Equity	5775.10	6079.10	-12.10	...
Inv Managed	3863.30	4066.70	+0.40	...
Inv Prop Ac Grs	884.80	931.40	+0.90	...
Inv Prop Dist	280.00	294.80	+0.30	...
Ret Managed	4555.40	4795.20	+0.40	...

PHOENIX LIFE LTD
Edward Pavilion, Liverpool L3 4SL 0151 239 3000
For further fund prices please ring: 0800 731 2031
For further fund prices please ring 0800 731 2031
Broker Life Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Moneyhill Grth	510.43	537.29	+2.58	...

Lifestyle Bond Funds (Post 29/1/01)

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cautious Mgd	251.10	251.10	-0.50	...
Deposit	155.60	155.60	+0.20	...
Equity	269.90	269.90	...	...
Equity Inc	294.30	294.30	-0.10	...
European	360.40	360.40	-3.70	...
Eurotech	90.10	90.10	-0.20	...
Far East	413.40	413.40	+5.60	...
Fixed Int	192.20	192.20	-1.40	...
FTSE All Share Tkr	291.60	291.60	-0.90	...
Income Dist I	108.90	108.90	-0.30	...
Income Dist II	107.10	107.10	-0.30	...
International	321.60	321.60	+0.70	...
Japan Grth	216.60	216.60	+5.00	...
Managed	280.90	280.90	-0.20	...
North America	504.80	504.80	+2.00	...
Pacific Grth	623.30	623.30	+4.40	...
Property	353.70	353.70	+0.30	...
UK Leader	281.20	281.20	-0.80	...
UK Smlr Cos	275.20	275.20	-2.20	...
With Profits	159.14	159.14	+0.11	...

Other Life & Pension Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Pens Unit W Prof	251.92	265.18	+0.21	...
With Profits Bd	194.68	194.68	+0.13	...

Pensions Solution Funds (Post 6/4/2001)

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Balanced Grth	280.70	280.70	-0.80	...
Cash Deposit	166.50	166.50	+0.20	...
Equity	275.90	275.90	-0.10	...
Equity Inc	302.30	302.30	-0.10	...
European	424.80	424.80	-5.30	...
Eurotech	173.80	173.80	+4.40	...
Far East	495.20	495.20	+8.20	...
Fixed Int	213.00	213.00	-1.90	...
FTSE All Share Tkr	327.20	327.20	-1.20	...
Index Linked	259.30	259.30	-4.00	...
International	388.80	388.80	+1.00	...
Managed Grth	308.40	308.40	-0.20	...
Pens Protector	198.10	198.10	-4.10	...
Property	457.10	457.10	+0.40	...
UK Leader	304.00	304.00	-1.10	...
Unitised W Prof	213.25	213.25	+0.20	...

PRUDENTIAL INDIVIDUAL LIFE FUNDS
0345 601601
55 King's Road, Reading, RG1 3AH

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Euro Fund ‡	...	...	-15.20	...
N American Fd ‡	...	...	+4.40	...
Strategic Fund	644.30	678.20	-11.00	...

Scottish Amicable Life Fds (First Series)

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash Fund ‡	...	...	+0.60	...
Equity Fund ‡	...	...	-47.00	...
Fixed Interest ‡	...	...	-7.50	...
Intl Fund ‡	...	...	+7.70	...
Managed Fund ‡	...	...	+0.40	...
Property Fund ‡	...	...	-1.60	...

PRUDENTIAL LIFE FUNDS
01786 448844
PO Box 14962, Craigforth, Stirling, FK9 4ZD
Others

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
BonusBond	251.90	265.20	-1.00	...
Cap Gteed Bd	390.40	410.90	+1.20	...
Prud Inher Bd (Cap) ‡	...	...	-1.00	...
Prud Inher Bd (Inc) ‡	...	...	...	...

Scottish Amicable Life Fds (First Series)

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash	377.10	397.00	+0.20	...
Equity	2485.40	2616.20	-18.20	...
Fixed Interest	841.20	885.50	-5.50	...
Index-Linked	537.50	565.80	-7.90	...
International	1990.30	2095.00	+5.60	...
Managed	2012.40	2118.40	+0.30	...
Property	1066.90	1123.00	-1.50	...

The M & G Series

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Amer Bond Acc	1351.10	1418.80	-21.40	...
Deposit Bond Acc ‡	...	...	+0.60	...
Equity Bond Acc	5089.00	5343.60	-37.80	...
Euro Smlr Cos	209.30	219.90	-21.90	...
European Bd Acc	2191.10	2300.70	-10.80	...
Extra Yld Bd Acc	4297.90	4512.90	-7.70	...
Gbl Basics Bd Acc	1161.30	1219.40	+16.90	...
Gilt Bond Acc ‡	...	...	-6.00	...
High Yield Bond	428.90	450.40	-11.10	...
Index-Lnkd Gt Bd	375.60	394.40	-6.10	...
International Bd	6049.30	6351.90	+60.20	...
Japan Bond Acc	517.90	543.80	+16.40	...
Japan Sm Cos Acc	235.80	247.70	-3.80	...
Managed Bond Acc	3649.20	3831.70	+0.70	...
Prop Bond Acc	1492.70	1567.50	-2.20	...
Rec Bond Acc ‡	...	...	-33.00	...
S East Asia Bd Acc	1300.20	1365.30	-20.40	...

PRUDENTIAL PENSION FUNDS
Scottish Amicable Non Series A

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
100% Safeguard	155.80	164.00	...	...
95% Safeguard	171.90	180.90	+1.80	...

SAVE & PROSPER INSURANCE AND PENSIONS
St James's House, 27-43 Eastern Rd, Romford RM1 3NH
Customer Helpline: 0845 3000144

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Bal Inv Fund	351.30	369.80	+0.10	...
Deposit Fund (2)	656.00	690.50	+0.60	...
Gilt Fund	1361.30	1432.90	-6.00	...
Global Equity Fd	1683.40	1772.00	+4.40	...
Property Fund (46)	278.80	293.50	+0.10	...

SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS
0131 225 2211
19 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YE

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
American	1878.30	1977.20	-3.10	...
Deposit	318.20	335.00	+0.30	...
European	2854.50	3004.80	-25.10	...
Fixed Interest	654.30	688.80	-3.60	...
Global Mgd	1500.50	1579.50	+2.00	...
Index Linked	661.50	696.40	-8.40	...
Managed	1352.00	1423.20	-0.20	...
Pacific	1156.60	1217.50	+15.80	...
Pen Worldwide	534.30	562.50	+2.50	...
Property	921.10	969.60	-0.40	...
UK Equity	1684.60	1773.30	-9.70	...
Worldwide	462.60	487.00	+1.60	...

SCOTTISH MUTUAL ASSURANCE
0141 248 6321
301 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5HN

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash Fund	289.10	304.30	+0.20	...
European Fund	2151.80	2265.00	-27.60	...
Gilts & Fxd Int	493.90	519.90	-3.40	...
Growth Fund	857.10	902.20	-0.70	...
International Fd	1291.80	1359.80	+4.10	...
North American	2391.90	2517.80	+19.80	...
Opportunity Fd	860.50	905.80	+0.40	...
Safety Fund	602.60	634.40	-2.40	...
UK Equity	944.90	994.60	-5.40	...

SCOTTISH PROVIDENT INSTITUTION
0131 556 9181
6 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YA

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash	306.50	322.60	+0.20	...
Equity	872.30	918.20	-4.70	...
Fixed Interest	649.50	683.70	-3.90	...
Index Linked	478.50	503.70	-5.90	...
International	1081.10	1138.00	+3.60	...
Managed	884.70	931.30	-0.90	...
Property	582.90	613.60	-0.60	...

Formerly Prolific

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Adventurous Mg	873.20	919.20	+0.40	...
Bal Gwth Mngd	2683.70	2825.00	-2.30	...
Cash Fund	555.10	584.40	+0.40	...
Cautious Mngd	374.80	394.60	-1.40	...
Equity Fund	3784.40	3983.60	+12.40	...
Equity Inc Dist	148.70	156.60	-0.80	...
European	841.70	886.00	-11.50	...
Extra Income Fd	1384.90	1457.80	-6.40	...
Far East	2105.60	2216.50	+39.90	...
Fxd Interest Fund	1069.50	1125.80	-7.40	...
High Income	2980.40	3137.30	-15.70	...
International	1297.20	1365.50	+4.40	...
Managed Dist	131.20	138.20	-0.40	...
North American	3958.20	4166.60	+30.90	...
Property Fund	880.30	926.70	-0.30	...
Technology	7570.80	7969.30	+114.10	...
UK Mid Cap	3326.50	3501.60	-35.10	...

Henderson Investment Bonds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Deposit Fund	377.00	396.90	+0.30	...
European Fund	1380.80	1453.50	-18.80	...
Far East Fund	2069.10	2178.00	+39.30	...
Fixed Interest	52.00	54.80	-0.30	...
Global Managed	1549.80	1631.40	-1.30	...
North America	1770.10	1863.30	+13.90	...
UK Equity Fd	962.30	1013.00	-4.00	...

SCOTTISH WIDOWS GROUP
PO Box 902, Edinburgh EH16 5BU

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash Fund	368.40	387.80	+0.20	...
Equity Fund	2406.60	2533.30	-11.80	...
Fixed Interest Fd	867.10	912.70	-5.50	...
Indexed Stock Fd	607.80	639.80	-5.80	...
International Fd	2490.80	2621.90	+12.90	...
Inv Cash	561.60	591.10	+0.40	...
Inv Pol 1	5459.70	5459.70	-1.80	...
Inv Pol 2	4617.40	4860.40	-1.80	...
Inv Pol 3	3799.40	3999.40	-1.80	...
Mixed Fund	1967.20	2070.70	-0.80	...
Property Fund	920.70	969.10	-0.90	...

SKANDIA LIFE ASSURANCE CO LTD
01703 334411
Skandia House, Portland Terrace Southampton SO9 7BX

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Balanced Acc	947.70	997.50	+4.90	...
Equity Acc	2022.80	2129.30	-9.60	...
Global Acc	812.50	855.20	-1.20	...
Property	580.30	610.80	+0.40	...

STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE CO
Standard Life House, 30 Lothian Road, Edinburgh EH1 2DH 0131 225 2552

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash ‡	442.50	...	+0.40	...
Equity ‡	4541.80	...	-19.70	...
European ‡	986.80	...	-8.80	...
Far East ‡	536.70	...	+7.20	...
Fixed Interest ‡	956.60	...	-6.20	...
Index Linked ‡	577.90	...	-9.80	...
International ‡	2877.80	...	+10.80	...
Managed ‡	3025.60	...	+3.30	...
Nth American ‡	1111.90	...	+8.60	...
Property ‡	813.50	...	+0.80	...

Pensions (Series 4)

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash ‡	137.30	...	+0.10	...
Equity ‡	244.10	...	-1.30	...
European ‡	298.50	...	-3.50	...
Far East ‡	287.50	...	+6.90	...
Fixed Interest ‡	209.30	...	-1.40	...
Index Linked ‡	213.20	...	-4.60	...
International ‡	362.20	...	+2.40	...
Managed ‡	279.20	...	+0.40	...
Nth American ‡	427.40	...	+4.10	...
Property ‡	255.90	...	+0.10	...
Stock Exchange ‡	365.80	...	+1.80	...

SUN LIFE OF CANADA
Basingview, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 2DZ
Dealing: 01256 841414

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Equity Account	7418.80	7418.80	-7.20	...
Equity Fund Acc	2790.20	2937.00	-3.00	...
Equity II	6450.50	6790.00	-8.10	...
Fixed Int Fd Acc	726.30	764.50	-6.50	...
Growth Acc	8806.10	8806.10	-8.60	...
Indx-Lnkd Scs Acc	507.00	533.60	-10.30	...
Managed Account ‡	...	...	+4.50	...
Managed IV	3832.00	4033.60	+3.10	...
Mngd Fund Acc	1683.50	1772.10	+1.60	...
Money Fund Acc	344.60	362.70	+0.30	...
Pens Equity	1817.30	1912.90	-2.60	...
Pens Fixed Int	927.70	976.50	-8.40	...
Pens Guarantee	1547.90	1629.30	+1.50	...
Pens Indx-Lnkd	644.90	678.80	-13.10	...
Pens Intl	1335.80	1406.10	+7.60	...
Pens Mngd Acct	4383.30	4614.00	+1.70	...
Pens Money	444.30	467.60	+0.40	...
Pens Property	1787.80	1881.80	-3.20	...
Pers Pens Acct ‡	...	...	+3.50	...
Prop Fund Acc	1389.20	1462.30	-2.00	...

TESCO PERSONAL FINANCIAL LIFE LTD
0845 845 5555
PO Box 23042, Edinburgh EH3 8YG

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Balanced Growth	290.00	290.00	-0.60	...
Intl Growth	460.70	460.70	+2.80	...
UK Growth	278.30	278.30	-1.50	...

WINDSOR LIFE ASSUR CO LTD
01952 292929
Windsor House, Telford, Shropshire
Formerly AEtna
1982 Series

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash Deposit	336.40	354.10	+0.30	...
Far East Equity	1683.70	1772.30	+14.10	...
Fixed	638.20	671.80	-4.80	...
Index-Linked Fd	600.30	631.90	-7.70	...
Managed	1499.30	1578.20	+0.30	...
N Amer Equity	2480.10	2610.60	+8.80	...
Property	488.40	514.20	+0.60	...
Special Opp	2037.40	2144.60	-8.40	...
UK Equity	1620.60	1705.90	-2.90	...

Formerly AEGON Life

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Balanced	2090.70	2212.40	+0.40	...
Fixed Interest	591.90	626.30	-4.40	...
International	2490.60	2635.60	+4.90	...
Money	405.60	429.20	+0.30	...
Property	1230.40	1302.00	+1.50	...
UK Equity	2681.40	2837.50	-4.80	...

Formerly Crown

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Life Equity Acc	4090.90	4306.30	-7.10	...
Life Fxd Int Acc	745.20	784.40	-5.60	...
Life High Inc Acc	3351.90	3528.40	+0.20	...
Life Intl Acc	3026.00	3185.30	+6.10	...
Life Inv Tst Acc	3663.10	3855.90	+0.60	...
Life Managed Acc	2645.00	2784.20	+0.40	...
Life Money Acc	484.70	510.20	+0.40	...
Life Property Acc	720.60	758.50	+0.90	...

Life Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Bear	62.85	66.16	-0.24	...
Bull	76.13	80.14	...	...
Deposit	22.24	23.41	+0.02	...
Gilt Edged	35.06	36.90	-0.26	...
Owl	90.88	95.66	-0.21	...
Squirrel	29.36	30.91	+0.02	...
Stag	92.26	97.12	-0.39	...

Pensions

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Bear	105.90	111.50	-0.50	...
Bull	119.00	125.30	...	...
Deposit	35.73	37.61	+0.03	...
Gilt Edged	55.12	58.02	-0.52	...
Owl	137.60	144.80	-0.30	...
Squirrel	47.76	50.27	+0.05	...
Stag	151.50	159.50	-0.50	...

Pre 1982 Series

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
3-Way Fund	3039.60	3039.60	+0.70	...

Gresham

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
American & Genrl	4954.90	5215.70	+17.80	...
Capital Fund	2536.60	2670.10	-4.50	...
Equity Fund	2889.70	3041.80	-5.10	...
Fixed Interest	599.90	631.50	-4.50	...
Income	994.70	1047.00	-1.70	...
International Gth	4017.60	4229.00	+7.90	...
Japan & General	642.20	676.00	+14.50	...
Managed Bond	3353.60	3530.10	+0.70	...
Money Fund	525.40	553.00	...	...
Property Fund	1146.40	1206.80	+1.40	...
Recovery Fund	2690.00	2831.50	-10.90	...

WINTERTHUR LIFE UK LIMITED
01256 470707
Winterthur Way, Basingstoke RG21 6SZ
Formerly Colonial

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash ‡	285.70	...	...	...
Cash Inv Pens ‡	532.70	...	-0.10	...
Cash Pens ‡	146.40	...	-0.10	...
Equity ‡	1403.90	...	-0.30	...
Equity Inv Pens	9133.70	9614.40	-112.10	...
Equity Pens Cap	2274.70	2394.40	-29.50	...
Fxd Int ‡	1003.90	...	-7.20	...
Fxd Int Inv Pens ‡	2451.20	...	-12.30	...
Fxd Int Pens Cap ‡	677.60	...	-3.30	...
Idx Lk Inv Pens ‡	1479.60	...	...	...
Idx Lk Pens Cap ‡	408.40	...	-0.40	...
Key ‡	...	...	-0.80	...
Managed	1319.90	1389.30	-2.10	...
Mngd Inv Pens	3605.20	3795.00	-13.00	...
Mngd Pens Cap	899.50	946.80	-3.80	...
Pacemaker ‡	...	...	-1.60	...

ZURICH ASSURANCE LTD
0845 300 2332
UK Life Centre, Swindon SN1 1EL
Life Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Equity	11160.60	11748.00	+46.30	...
Managed (1)	1105.70	1163.90	+2.20	...
Managed (2)	840.10	884.40	+1.60	...
Managed (3) ‡	658.20	...	+1.40	...
Mangd Gen 4	157.70	166.00	+0.30	...
Property	1886.40	1985.70	+0.80	...
Property (1)	395.40	416.20	+0.10	...
Property (2) ‡	432.10	...	+0.20	...

Pension

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Managed (1)	1560.00	1642.10	+2.90	...
Equity Acc	31551.50	33212.10	+136.00	...
Managed Acc	17015.20	17910.70	+36.80	...
Property (1)	727.30	765.50	+0.40	...
Property (2) ‡	776.00	...	+0.60	...
Property Acc	8678.20	9134.90	+5.30	...
With Profs (5) ‡	243.40	...	+0.20	...
With Profs (6) ‡	213.80	...	+0.10	...

Share Class 1 - Retail

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Managed (2) ‡	818.10	...	+1.70	...

British funds

Index-linked

12 month High	Low	Stock	Price (£)	+/–	Int Yld %	Grs rd yld
121.79	82.66	Tr IL 0⅝% 42	91.13	+ .45	0.69	1.14
109.57	66.79	Tr IL 0⅛% 48	75.42	+ .42	...	1.28
120.20	72.64	Tr IL 0½% 50	82.46	+ .44	...	1.28
113.87	65.69	Tr IL 0¼% 52	75.91	+ .45	...	1.26
150.47	88.77	Tr IL 1¼% 55	100.83	+ .56	1.36	1.22
114.09	60.50	Tr IL 0⅛% 56	70.99	+ .50	...	1.18
117.10	60.14	Tr IL 0⅛% 58	70.17	+ .46	...	1.18
132.13	64.93	Tr IL 0⅜% 62	76.97	+ .56	...	1.11
126.92	55.87	Tr IL 0⅛% 65	69.07	+ .55	...	1.03
129.79	54.65	Tr IL 0⅛% 68	68.77	+ .62	...	0.99
148.46	55.40	Tr IL 0⅛% 73	72.53	+ .72	...	0.80
109.95	72.26	Tr IL 0⅛% 44	80.06	+ .44	...	1.23
109.65	70.25	Tr IL 0⅛% 46	77.65	+ .45	...	1.27
126.02	80.78	Tr IL 0¾% 47	89.05	+ .45	0.86	1.28
105.38	95.63	Tr IL 0⅛% 26	97.43	+ .34	...	1.16
114.30	99.63	Tr IL 1¼% 27	102.04	+ .49	1.34	0.75
108.69	93.33	Tr IL 0⅛% 28	97.28	+ .53	...	0.69
108.74	92.36	Tr IL 0⅛% 29	96.82	+ .53	...	0.71
354.52	301.39	Tr IL 4⅛% 30 *	336.94	+1.40	1.92	0.61
111.28	90.61	Tr IL 0⅛% 31	96.95	+ .49	...	0.52
123.06	99.08	Tr IL 1¼% 32	105.84	+ .57	1.18	0.60
117.88	92.56	Tr IL 0¾% 34	100.08	+ .58	...	0.74
260.38	206.76	Tr IL 2% 35 *	240.47	+ .92	1.01	0.77
111.35	82.01	Tr IL 0⅛% 36	90.82	+ .59	...	0.86
127.42	94.08	Tr IL 1⅛% 37	102.58	+ .65	1.15	0.93
110.99	78.25	Tr IL 0⅛% 39	86.66	+ .46	...	1.06
119.98	84.60	Tr IL 0⅝% 40	93.21	+ .49	...	1.07
111.27	75.20	Tr IL 0⅛% 41	84.23	+ .44	...	1.10
105.03	97.72	Tr IL 0⅛% 24	98.46	+ .15	...	3.09
380.26	359.04	Tr IL 2½% 24 *	377.40	+ .31	1.43	2.49

Longs (Over 15 years)

12 month High	Low	Stock	Price (£)	+/–	Int Yld %	Grs rd yld
115.49	89.35	Tr 4¼% 46	93.14	+ .51	4.56	4.74
61.15	43.93	Tr 0⅞% 46	47.45	+ .36	...	4.69
70.13	51.06	Tr 1½% 47	54.34	+ .39	...	4.70
74.08	53.78	Tr 1¾% 49	56.72	+ .40	...	4.68
117.50	98.29	Tr 4¾% 38	101.39	+ .61	4.68	4.62
72.59	58.05	Tr 1⅛% 39	61.58	+ .41	...	4.65
111.29	92.08	Tr 4¼% 39	95.37	+ .52	4.46	4.66
117.52	89.75	Tr 4¼% 49	93.01	+ .53	4.57	4.72
63.87	44.40	Tr 1¼% 51	47.16	+ .37	...	4.65
110.80	82.24	Tr 3¾% 52	85.30	+ .53	...	4.68
67.79	46.78	Tr 1½% 53	49.51	+ .38	...	4.64
70.42	48.25	Tr 1⅝% 54	50.88	+ .39	...	4.61
123.23	90.07	Tr 4¼% 55	93.56	+ .56	4.54	4.64
73.50	49.39	Tr 1¾% 57	51.98	+ .36	...	4.54
122.75	86.40	Tr 4% 60	89.90	+ .52	...	4.57
46.24	26.21	Tr 0½% 61	28.89	+ .27	...	4.32
91.47	59.83	Tr 2½% 65	62.74	+ .41	...	4.48
116.13	77.61	Tr 3½% 68	81.03	+ .49	...	4.49
53.35	35.82	Tr 0⅝% 50	38.48	+ .33	...	4.63
112.08	91.30	Tr 4¼% 40	94.92	+ .52	...	4.68
71.44	54.72	Tr 1¼% 41	58.59	+ .39	...	4.66
98.61	76.78	Tr 3¼% 44	80.81	+ .45	...	4.73
117.12	93.79	Tr 4½% 42	97.45	+ .50	4.62	4.70
102.68	79.61	Tr 3½% 45	83.46	+ .47	...	4.74
109.25	63.35	Tr 0⅝% 51	73.33	+ .43	...	1.28
70.95	42.99	Tr 1⅝% 71	45.56	+ .31	...	4.32
57.59	32.96	Tr 1⅛% 73	35.62	+ .23	...	4.23
103.74	81.74	Tr 3¾% 53	84.90	+ .50	...	4.69

Mediums (5-15 years)

12 month High	Low	Stock	Price (£)	+/–	Int Yld %	Grs rd yld
116.96	104.85	Tr 6% 28	107.27	+ .41	5.59	4.43
86.40	77.61	Tr 0½% 29	81.21	+ .36	...	4.46
87.71	78.21	Tr 0⅞% 29	81.68	+ .39	...	4.32
91.05	84.28	Tr 0⅜% 26	87.87	+ .27	...	4.60
93.30	85.65	Tr 1¼% 27	88.71	+ .32	...	4.46
106.12	96.63	Tr 4¼% 27	99.11	+ .35	4.29	4.48
87.24	79.15	Tr 0⅛% 28	82.97	+ .35	...	4.44
93.52	84.72	Tr 1⅝% 28	87.57	+ .38	...	4.36
103.82	95.72	Tr 4 ⅛% 27	98.02	+ .29	...	4.76
95.52	89.28	Tr 1½% 26	91.89	+ .24	...	4.55
82.38	72.39	Tr 0⅜% 30	76.01	+ .40	...	4.33
83.95	73.06	Tr 1% 32	76.51	+ .41	...	4.38
110.34	97.27	Tr 4¼% 32	99.51	+ .47	4.27	4.32
101.14	88.88	Tr 4 ⅛% 27	91.15	+ .46	...	4.41
79.92	68.57	Tr 0⅞% 33	71.89	+ .45	...	4.41
113.35	97.71	Tr 4½% 34	100.28	+ .54	4.49	4.47
73.11	61.24	Tr 0⅝% 35	64.69	+ .47	...	4.49
113.13	100.56	Tr 4¾% 30	102.63	+ .45	4.63	4.32
79.47	69.25	Tr 0¼% 31	72.92	+ .40	...	4.34
110.66	94.67	Tr 4¼% 36	97.47	+ .52	4.36	4.52
81.78	67.54	Tr 1¾% 37	70.86	+ .48	...	4.60
104.43	...	Tr 3¾% 38	90.64	+ .55	...	4.65

Shorts (under 5 years)

12 month High	Low	Stock	Price (£)	+/–	Int Yld %	Grs rd yld
97.82	92.80	Tr 2% 25	94.69	+ .18	...	4.83
104.69	99.24	Tr 5% 25	100.13	+ .08	4.99	4.91
100.88	95.02	Tr 3½% 25	96.92	+ .20	...	5.05
92.38	86.33	Tr 0⅛% 26	90.07	+ .21	...	4.57
94.97	90.15	Tr 0⅝% 25	93.15	+ .17	...	4.78
99.57	96.82	Tr 2¾% 24	97.84	+ .09	...	5.04
94.34	90.04	Tr 0¼% 25	93.86	+ .13	...	4.89
98.15	94.34	Tr 0⅛% 24	98.15	+ .05	...	4.96
97.59	94.79	Tr 1% 24	97.59	+ .06	...	5.04

* maturities as having a 3-month indexation lag and which trade on a real clean price basis, excluding inflation adjustment charge

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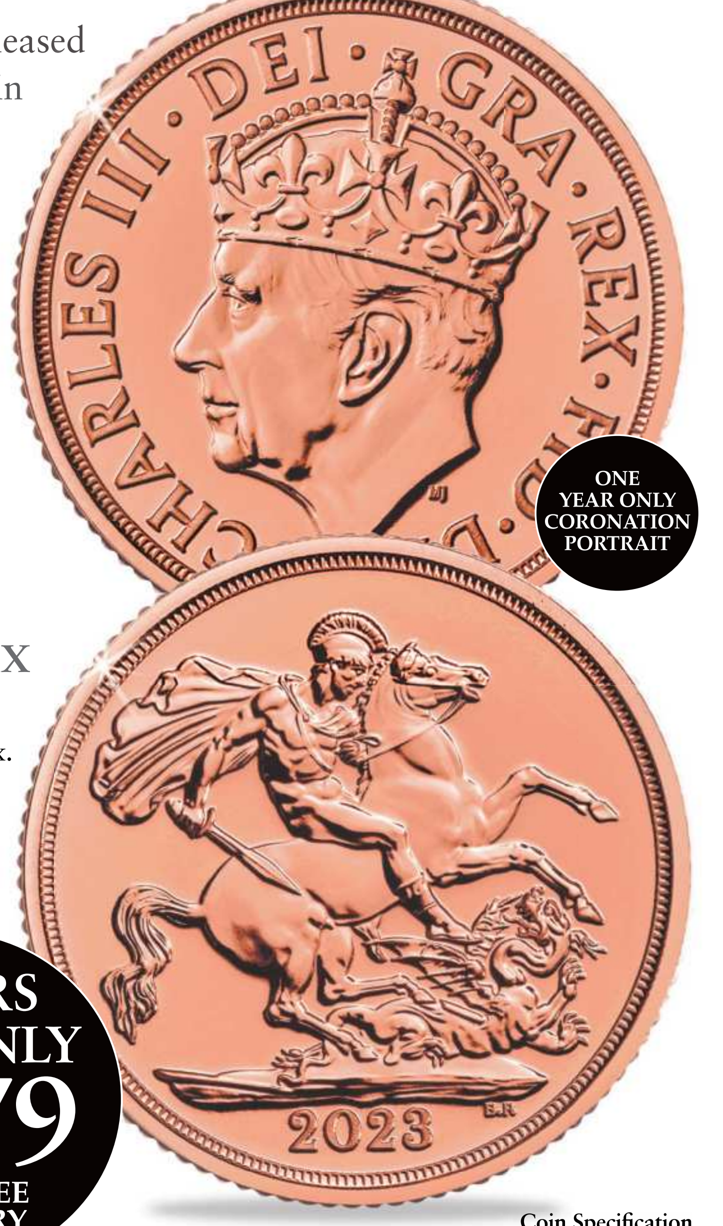
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Sheila was emaciated on arrival...



Sheila with son, Jason, this year.

Sheila's Story...

Sheila is one of a herd of twelve horses who came to us in 2015 from a stray horse pound. She was in very poor condition and heavily pregnant. With good food and care, she thankfully recovered and her foal, Jason, was born later that year. They are still enjoying life together in the Sanctuary.

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...founded in 1995 to help and campaign for animals in need, particularly those suffering every day in the intensive factory farming industry.



Patron: Martin Shaw

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Pack of 30 Hillside Christmas Cards	£10			
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Gift Total				
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Total				

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JANUARY 2025

Sat 11 — **Embark the iconic *Queen Mary 2* and depart Southampton**

Wed 15 — **Santa Cruz, Tenerife**

Wed 22 — **St. George's, Grenada**

Thu 23 — **Bridgetown, Barbados**
Whilst sailing to Barbados, you'll encounter a land where relaxation and adventure go hand in hand. Sailing through the warm, blue waters of the Caribbean, when you arrive at Barbados you'll dock at the capital city of Bridgetown – a veritable feast of breathtaking scenery, delicious cuisine, and exceptional hospitality

Fri 24 — **Castries, Saint Lucia**

Sun 26 - Mon 27 — **Willemstad, Curaçao** (overnight)
Step off at Willemstad and enjoy your visit to the capital of former Dutch colony Curacao. Visit Punda, for its beautiful 17th and 18th century Dutch-style architecture, and for the 'floating' market, where vendors arrive each morning by boat from Venezuela

Thu 30 — **Roseau, Dominica**

Fri 31 — **English Harbour, Antigua**

FEBRUARY 2025

Sat 1 — **Basseterre, Saint Kitts and Nevis**

Mon 3 — **Tortola, British Virgin Islands**

Tue 4 — **Philipsburg, St. Maarten**
Perched on a narrow strip of land between the crystal clear Caribbean Sea and the Great Salt Pond, the Caribbean gem Philipsburg is a fabulous setting for a wide array of things to see and experience. Stroll along the inland salt lake, or head for the gorgeous city beach. Search the quaint clothes boutiques, or browse the stores for duty-free bargains. The choice is yours

Tue 11 — **Funchal, Madeira**
Step off your cruise ship and into a little piece of Portuguese paradise in the archipelago of Madeira, in the Atlantic Ocean. Enchanting towns and villages, breath-taking landscapes, a spectacular array of unique flora, and delicious local wines are awaiting your discovery on a cruise to the Portuguese islands of Madeira

Sat 15 — **Arrive in Southampton**

Dates not mentioned are spent relaxing at sea

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Today A hot, humid day with scattered thunderstorms in central and western areas. Max 33C (91F), min 9C (48F)

Around Britain

Key: b=bright, c=cloud, d=drizzle, pc=partly cloudy du=dull, f=fair, fg=fog, h=hail, m=mist, r=rain, sh=showers, sl=sleet, sn=snow, s=sun, t=thunder
*=previous day **=data not available

	Temp C midday yesterday		Rain mm 24 hrs to 5pm yesterday	Sun hr*
Aberdeen	25	S	0.0	4.5
Aberporth	22	S	0.0	2.6
Anglesey	22	S	0.0	0.8
Aviemore	24	S	1.4	7.3
Barnstaple	24	S	0.0	**
Bedford	26	S	0.0	**
Belfast	23	S	0.2	4.9
Birmingham	24	S	0.0	**
Bournemouth	25	PC	0.0	7.8
Bridlington	18	PC	0.2	**
Bristol	24	S	0.0	3.7
Camborne	20	S	0.0	6.6
Cardiff	23	PC	0.0	2.4
Edinburgh	23	S	0.2	1.7
Eskdalemuir	24	S	0.0	1.4
Glasgow	22	M	0.0	6.1
Hereford	25	S	0.0	**
Herstmonceux	27	S	0.0	9.0
Ipswich	26	S	0.0	11.6
Isle of Man	21	S	0.0	2.3
Isle of Wight	26	S	0.0	**
Jersey	26	PC	0.0	6.0
Keswick	24	S	0.0	**
Kinloss	25	M	0.6	9.8
Leeds	22	M	0.0	**
Lerwick	20	S	0.8	4.2
Leuchars	22	S	0.0	3.5
Lincoln	21	S	0.0	9.9
Liverpool	24	S	0.0	**
London	28	S	0.0	10.5
Lyneham	26	S	0.0	7.2
Manchester	23	S	0.0	3.9
Margate	26	**	0.2	11.9
Milford Haven	23	C	0.0	**
Newcastle	22	S	0.0	**
Nottingham	23	PC	0.0	8.7
Orkney	22	S	2.8	11.0
Oxford	26	S	0.0	**
Plymouth	23	S	0.0	**
Portland	23	PC	0.0	**
Scilly, St Mary's	19	R	0.4	**
Shoreham	29	S	0.0	10.7
Shrewsbury	22	S	0.0	2.1
Snowdonia	25	S	0.2	**
Southend	24	S	0.2	11.5
South Uist	22	S	0.0	**
Stornoway	19	S	0.0	8.4
Tiree	19	S	0.0	8.3
Whitehaven	24	S	0.0	0.0
Wick	22	S	2.4	**
Yeovilton	26	S	0.0	3.0

The world

All readings local midday yesterday

Alicante	27	PC	Madeira	25	B
Amsterdam	29	PC	Madrid	27	PC
Athens	25	PC	Malaga	26	B
Auckland	16	S	Mallorca	29	PC
Bahrain	40	S	Malta	28	PC
Bangkok	32	PC	Melbourne	11	B
Barbados	32	PC	Mexico City	25	B
Barcelona	26	PC	Miami	33	PC
Beijing	26	R	Milan	28	S
Beirut	34	S	Mombasa	**	**
Belgrade	29	S	Montreal	28	B
Berlin	28	S	Moscow	14	PC
Bermuda	29	PC	Mumbai	27	R
Bordeaux	31	S	Munich	25	S
Brussels	29	S	Nairobi	**	**
Bucharest	27	S	Naples	31	S
Budapest	26	S	New Orleans	33	S
Buenos Aires	14	D	New York	33	PC
Cairo	37	S	Nice	27	S
Calcutta	28	**	Nicosia	33	PC
Canberra	11	B	Oslo	16	DU
Cape Town	18	S	Paris	34	S
Chicago	20	DU	Perth	22	S
Copenhagen	22	S	Prague	25	S
Corfu	31	PC	Reykjavik	11	B
Delhi	34	**	Riga	20	PC
Dubai	41	S	Rio de Janeiro	24	B
Dublin	25	PC	Riyadh	41	S
Faro	25	PC	Rome	30	S
Florence	32	S	San Francisco	21	PC
Frankfurt	27	S	Santiago	14	PC
Geneva	28	PC	São Paulo	22	S
Gibraltar	25	PC	Seoul	28	S
Helsinki	19	B	Seychelles	28	B
Hong Kong	26	SH	Singapore	31	B
Honolulu	32	PC	St Petersburg	19	PC
Istanbul	28	B	Stockholm	20	S
Jerusalem	41	S	Sydney	15	SH
Johannesburg	24	S	Tel Aviv	41	S
Kuala Lumpur	29	SH	Tenerife	27	PC
Kyiv	**	**	Tokyo	23	SH
Lanzarote	25	PC	Vancouver	19	PC
Las Palmas	28	PC	Venice	28	S
Lima	19	DU	Vienna	27	S
Lisbon	25	PC	Warsaw	25	S
Los Angeles	23	PC	Washington	33	**
Luxor	42	S	Zurich	27	PC

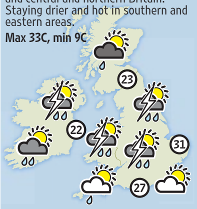
Five days ahead

Cooler and unsettled with rain and showers, drier on Wednesday and Thursday

Tomorrow

Rather cloudy with rain and thunderstorms across much of Ireland and central and northern Britain. Staying drier and hot in southern and eastern areas.

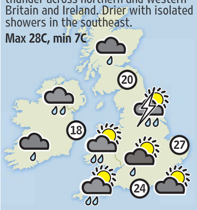
Max 33C, min 9C



Monday

Mostly cloudy with showery outbreaks of rain, perhaps with a few rumbles of thunder across northern and western Britain and Ireland. Drier with isolated showers in the southeast.

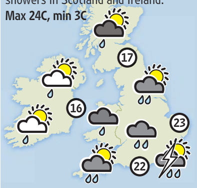
Max 28C, min 7C



Tuesday

Cloudy with outbreaks of rain and thundery downpours spreading southeastwards across England and Wales. Sunny spells in Scotland and a few showers in Scotland and Ireland.

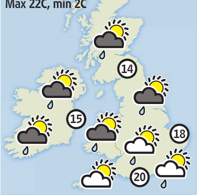
Max 24C, min 3C



Wednesday

A few isolated showers, mainly around coastal areas, but otherwise mostly dry with sunny spells.

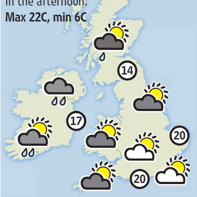
Max 22C, min 2C



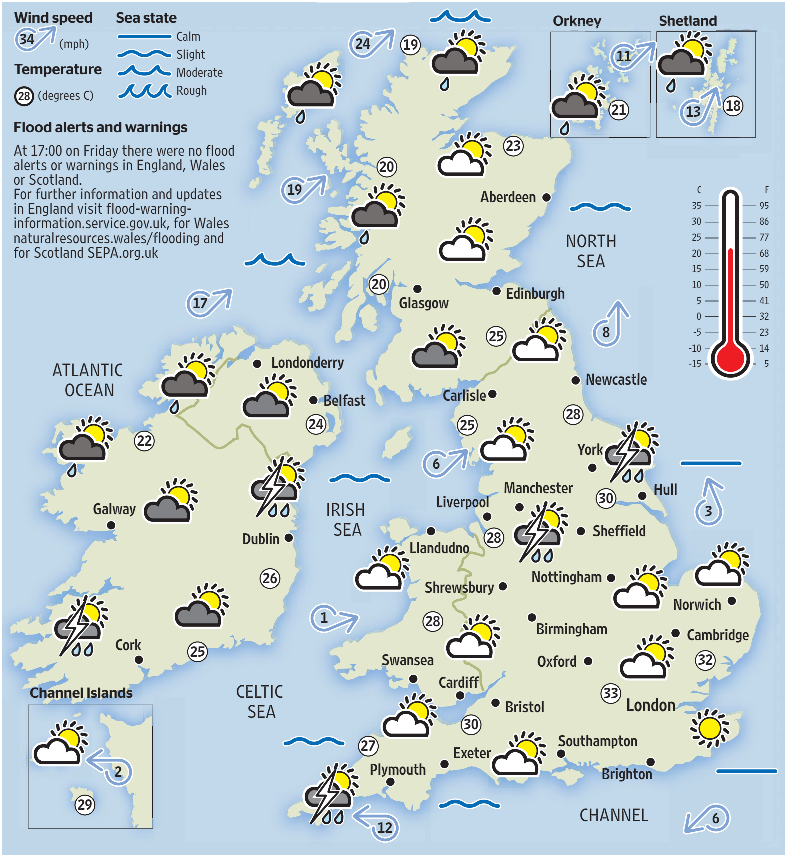
Thursday

Mostly dry with sunny spells, but turning cloudy and windy in Ireland and western Britain with rain arriving in the afternoon.

Max 22C, min 6C



The Times weather page is provided by WeatherQuest



Flood alerts and warnings

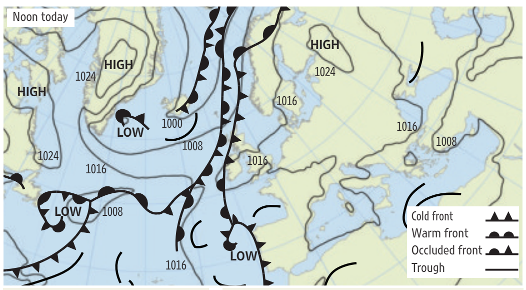
At 17:00 on Friday there were no flood alerts or warnings in England, Wales or Scotland.
For further information and updates in England visit flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk, for Wales naturalresources.wales/flooding and for Scotland SEPA.org.uk

General situation: Sunny spells and hot. Thunderstorms in central England.
London, E Anglia, Cen S Eng, SE Eng: Staying dry with long spells of sunshine and turning hot with some patchy cloud later. Light and variable winds. Maximum 33C (91F), minimum 15C (59F).
Midlands, E Eng: Sunny spells and hot with scattered thunderstorms developing and some localised flooding. Light and variable winds. Maximum 31C (88F), minimum 15C (59F).
SW Eng: Sunny spells and patchy cloud with coastal mist patches. Thunderstorms possible during the evening. Light to moderate easterly winds. Maximum 28C (82F), minimum 16C (61F).
Wales, NW Eng, Cen N Eng, NE Eng IoM, Lake District, Borders, Glasgow, Edinburgh and Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland: A mainly dry, very warm day with sunny spells and patchy cloud. Light and variable winds. Maximum 28C (82F), minimum 15C (59F).
Argyll, Cen Highland, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, NW Scotland, N Isles: Rather cloudy with coastal fog and patchy rain. Moderate to fresh southwesterly winds. Maximum 24C (75F), minimum 9C (48F).
Republic of Ireland, N Ireland: Sunny spells, but scattered showers and thunderstorms will develop, particularly across central and western areas in the afternoon. Light southwesterly winds. Maximum 24C (75F), minimum 9C (48F).

Tides

Tidal predictions.
Heights in metres

Today		Ht		Ht
Aberdeen	10:18	3.3	22:46	3.4
Avonmouth	02:43	9.0	15:29	9.0
Belfast	07:30	2.7	19:57	3.0
Cardiff	02:24	8.3	15:05	8.4
Devonport	--:--	--	14:02	4.2
Dover	07:12	5.1	19:52	5.1
Dublin	--:--	--	--:--	--
Falmouth	--:--	--	14:00	3.9
Greenock	07:50	2.6	20:03	2.8
Harwich	07:28	3.1	20:29	3.2
Holyhead	07:07	4.2	19:46	4.4
Hull	02:11	5.5	14:58	5.5
Leith	11:12	4.3	23:44	4.3
Liverpool	07:28	6.9	20:12	7.1
London Bridge	09:27	5.4	22:16	5.7
Lowestoft	05:45	2.2	18:50	2.2
Milford Haven	02:04	4.9	14:58	5.0
Morecambe	07:42	6.8	20:26	7.0
Newhaven	07:26	4.8	20:04	4.9
Newquay	01:03	5.0	13:56	5.1
Oban	03:13	2.6	16:26	2.8
Penzance	--:--	--	13:27	4.2
Portsmouth	07:52	3.7	20:19	3.7
Shoreham	07:13	4.5	19:50	4.5
Southampton	06:36	3.5	10:36	3.2
Swansea	02:00	6.5	14:43	6.6
Tees	--:--	--	12:27	4.3
Weymouth	01:33	1.1	15:26	1.3



Synoptic situation

High pressure situated across Europe will continue to ridge across Britain and deliver mostly dry, settled and hot conditions. A few scattered thunderstorms may develop in the afternoon across central England. A series of fronts will bring cloudier skies and some rain and showers across northern and western Scotland and parts of Ireland.

Highs and lows

24hrs to 5pm yesterday

Warmest: Cavendish, 30.9C
Coldest: Redesdale Camp, Northumberland, 10.0C
Wettest: Derrylin Cornhoule, Co Fermanagh, 24.2mm
Sunniest: Manston, 11.9hrs*

Sun and moon

For Greenwich
Sun rises: 06.25
Sun sets: 19.29
Moon rises: --.--
Moon sets: 17.48
New Moon: September 15th

Hours of darkness

Aberdeen	20:15-05:58
Belfast	20:27-06:17
Birmingham	20:08-06:03
Cardiff	20:12-06:09
Exeter	20:12-06:11
Glasgow	20:21-06:08
Liverpool	20:13-06:06
London	20:00-05:57
Manchester	20:10-06:03
Newcastle	20:10-05:59
Norwich	19:55-05:50
Penzance	20:20-06:20
Sheffield	20:07-06:00

Weather Eye

Paul Simons



Difficult to believe that the calendar says this is September, with much of Britain feeling something like the Mediterranean in sweltering days and balmy nights. By any stretch of the imagination, this has been an extraordinary heatwave.

Thursday recorded a rare feat for September, the highest temperature of the year so far with 32.6C at Wisley in Surrey. The heatwave also set a September record of four successive days of temperatures reaching 30C or above, with more heat on the way — possibly over 33C today and carrying on hot tomorrow in the southeast and in East Anglia.

One clue to where this heat came from became all too evident when many people discovered their cars smothered in a yellow-brown matter. This unholy mess was Saharan dust that had wafted up from north Africa on a southerly airflow — a thorough nuisance but good business for car washes.

For anyone wilting in the heat, relief is on the way as the heatwave is easing off this weekend, with the northwest of Scotland already feeling cooler and wetter. There could also be thundery showers in England and Wales, with more to come tomorrow, and by Tuesday all parts will feel much fresher.

Is that the end of the fine weather? There are signs that high pressure will try to build up again later next week but it is unlikely to bring any exceptional heat, or to last long. But the joker in the pack is the recent upsurge in Atlantic hurricane activity.

It was Franklin that helped to buckle the jet stream into a great loop that trapped high pressure over the UK and much of Europe, leading to the unseasonable heatwave. And another hurricane named Lee has burst into life in the tropical seas of the Atlantic and has rapidly grown into an extremely powerful storm.

Lee will swerve northwards, although it is far too early to say whether this will eventually have any impact on weather patterns in the UK or Europe.

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Register

Obituaries

Edward Hide

Shrewd jockey and Derby winner in 1973 on the rank outsider Morston

The number 13 is not normally associated with good luck, but for Edward Hide in the Derby of 1973 it belied that reputation. Despite a thorough familiarity with the complex Epsom course (with a win in the Oaks already to his credit) he had enjoyed no luck there, being unplaced a dozen times since Brioche, leading at Tattenham Corner in 1957, had faded out of contention.

So, with a chance ride on Morston, on whom he had set eyes for the first time in the parade ring before the Derby, having arrived at Epsom by bus, Hide remarked cheerfully to the trainer, Arthur Budgett, that the colt was not only his 13th ride in the greatest Classic but was also No 13 on the racecard. Budgett did not disabuse him that these were anything but ill omens.

"Morston," said Budgett, "is a very good type of horse but he's rather lazy at home. Give him a nice race. Win if you can, but I don't want him knocked about." After this pep talk Hide wondered whether he would have been wiser to have stayed up north, where he was based, and taken the rides he had been offered at Ripon.

One of the quieter jockeys in the paddock but also one of the shrewdest, he then observed Morston's sensible attitude in the preliminaries, bearing in mind that this was only the second time the colt had been on a racecourse and the first before such a milling and noisy throng as the Derby crowd.

The undulations of Epsom are not suited to an inexperienced horse, but by the time they were lining up at the start, Hide had begun to feel confidence in his mount. Morston, a 25/1 rank outsider, did not let him down. Two furlongs from home the shouts were all for the favourite, Ksar. Yet with not much more than a furlong to go, Hide, with perfect judgment and timing, asked Morston to go past Ksar, whom he was originally going to ride before Willie Carson recovered from injury. This Morston did, running as straight as a gun barrel and going on to beat Cavo Doro, desperately driven by Lester Piggott, by half a length. Pat Eddery on Freefoot finished third; Ksar was fourth. Hide's fairytale victory owed as much to his shrewd appraisal of tactics as his horsemanship, which resulted in half a dozen Classic successes. Today, Hide is still the ninth most successful British flat jockey.

Edward William George Hide was born in Stanton Lacy, near Ludlow, Shropshire, in 1937. His father, the trainer William Hide, put him astride a horse

MARK CRANHAM



Hide hung up his saddle in 1986, aged 49

at two. The child was following hounds at six and apprenticed to his father, riding in his first race as a 13-year-old in 1950. He rode his first winner, Ritornello, a year later. His first major success came with Precious Heather in the 1956 Ayr Gold Cup.

The next season he rode 131 winners (including his first for the Queen, Opera Score at Newmarket). He finished second only to the champion jockey Scobie Breasley and only six short of his best tally ever, achieved in 1974.

Hide reckoned that he competed 2st below his natural weight, surviving on raw eggs and tots of sherry during the season. Yet by the late Fifties he was riding for the leading northern stables of Captain Charles Elsey. Hide rode important winners for Elsey, notably Babur in the Lincoln of 1957, Be Careful in the Gimcrack in 1958 and Guersillus in the City and Suburban of 1959.

In the 1959 St Leger, Hide secured his first Classic, on Cantelo, a filly trained by Elsey. Hide's reward was to be appointed Elsey's first jockey. Important successes of this time included Henry the Seventh in the 1962 Eclipse Stakes and a triumph in the 1967 Oaks on Pia.

In 1972, after spells riding for the Elsey family and for Sir Gordon Richards (Hide's hero and mentor), he went freelance. Hide wanted to use his forensic knowledge of the formbook, perusing the racing calendar and judiciously selecting targets. Although not the most extroverted of men, he would determinedly ring up a trainer and sweet-talk them into allowing him to ride their unfancied mount by insisting he could win. It was a fruitful period, which included winning the 1,000 Guineas on Waterloo in his first season as a free agent. In 1975 Hide was well in the lead in the race to become champion jockey before breaking his leg in a fall at York.

A brilliant association with the champion sprinter of 1976, Lochnager, trained in Yorkshire by Mick Easterby, led to several more successes including the King's Stand Stakes at Royal Ascot and the July Cup.

In 1977 he won another 1,000 Guineas on Mrs McArdy, also trained by Easterby. "He rode my best horses, Mrs McArdy and Lochnager, who he stole the July Cup on," recalled Easterby. "He kicked in the Dip and they never got to him. He would always say where he wanted to be in a race and how he was going to ride it. He was absolutely incredible."

In 1978, Hide won another St Leger, this time on Julio Mariner, owned by the shipping magnate Marcos Lemos.

Despite these successes, having ten times achieved a seasonal tally of more than 100 wins and been for many years crowned northern champion, Hide never gained the recognition he deserved. Like his contemporary Piggott, he carried on riding well into his forties, but the number of mounts began to diminish. Nevertheless, before his retirement in 1986, at the age of 49, he surpassed the 2,530 total winners achieved by the Victorian champion George Fordham and thus became, at the time, the sixth most successful British jockey. His final tally of 2,593 winners was for many years the highest in Britain for a jockey not to be crowned champion, until passed by Joe Fanning.

After hanging up his saddle, Hide applied to become a Jockey Club stewards' secretary. The idea of a former jockey taking such a role made a lot of sense, but its time had not yet come and Hide's background clearly counted against him when the role went to a cavalry officer with far less experience of the turf. "I still feel I would have had something to offer on issues like misuse of the whip," he said. Instead he worked as an agent to the jockey Walter Swinburn, as an assistant trainer to John Gosden and racing manager for Lord Matthews.

Hide is survived by Susan, née Brett, whom he married in 1961, together with their son Will, a journalist, and daughter Lizzie. The Hides owned and trained racehorses for a time. "We bred the winners of around 89 races but we've given that up because it's not a viable game if you can't compete at the top," he said.

He retired at his farm near the town of Malton, North Yorkshire. Hide seldom went to racecourses, where his trademark toothy grin was much missed, especially because of his reputation for integrity that had inspired fellow jockeys to nickname him "Mr Clean".

Hide did relent occasionally, such as to watch his nephew Philip, a jump jockey, but felt humiliated in 2009 when, having been given lifetime free entry to British racecourses, he was refused admission at York. The incident led to an outcry and outpouring of affection for a Derby winner who in 1973 left Lester Piggott, Pat Eddery and Willie Carson trailing in his wake.

Edward Hide, jockey, was born on April 12, 1937. He died of undisclosed causes on September 7, 2023, aged 86

POPPERFOTO/GETTY IMAGES



Hide, on Morston, beat Lester Piggott, on Cavo Doro, by half a length at Epsom in 1973



Marilyn Lovell

Wife who was thrust into the spotlight during her husband Jim Lovell's ill-fated Apollo 13 mission

Marilyn Lovell turned on her television and quickly regretted it. There was, the space correspondent Jules Bergman soberly declared, no more than a 10 per cent chance that the crew of Apollo 13 would make it home alive.

She felt nauseous. Her husband, Jim Lovell, was the commander of the three-man moon mission and she had not realised the severity of the situation because a Nasa official had initially tried to reassure her by downplaying the danger.

Marilyn had taken a call from Jerry Hammack, a close friend who worked for the American space agency. He wrongly assumed she was aware of the explosion that had ruptured an oxygen tank, crippling the spacecraft 56 hours into the mission and sending mission control in Houston scrambling to improvise a way to bring the crew home safely.

"You don't have anything to worry about," he assured her. "Jerry, what are you talking about? Have you been out drinking?" she replied. "I just saw Jim on TV. Everything was fine!" But as her husband famously remarked, Apollo 13 did have "a problem". And as Lovell, Jack Swigert and Fred Haise worked to transform the lunar module into a kind of lifeboat, the family home became a focal point for the biggest story on and off the planet.

Astronauts' wives understood that they too represented their nation. During missions they were expected to watch and wait with stoic dignity, their demeanour and dress sense scrutinised by the media. Yet Marilyn's role was far from passive during the crisis. In addition to comforting their four children and Jim's ailing mother, the sleep-deprived Marilyn hosted dozens of visitors — friends, other astronaut families and Nasa officials — while reporters and television crews camped outside her suburban home.

All the while, her worst fear seemed to be coming true. Before lift-off she had a nightmare in which Jim was sucked into outer space through an open door in the spacecraft. And on the day before the launch of Apollo 13, which, she had noted, was set ominously for 13 minutes past the 13th hour on April 11, 1970, she dropped her wedding ring down a shower drain. Not that she confided her anxiety to her husband.

"For some reason or another the astronaut wives just never discussed anything that would worry their husbands before they went on a flight. I mean, we kept everything to ourselves," she told NBC in 2010. "You put it out of your

FRED KAUFMAN/AP:ASSOCIATED PRESS



Marilyn Lovell watching a training session, left, and a blast-off in 1968 with her four children; below, reunited with Jim in Honolulu after the Apollo 13 scare

mind … but I can't say that it was easy at times."

Apollo 13 was planned to be the third lunar landing and interest had waned in the nine months since Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin set foot on the moon in July 1969. The drama unfolding 200,000 miles away immediately changed that. Marilyn was glued to continuous television coverage and could also listen to communications between the spacecraft and mission control on a Nasa "squawk box".

Though she offered a ham sandwich to one reporter who showed up at her door, Marilyn drew the line when informed that television networks wanted to install a transmission tower in her front garden. "If landing on the moon wasn't enough of a news story for them, I don't know why not landing on the moon should be," she said, according to a 1994 book by Jim Lovell and Jeffrey Kluger. "You tell the networks that they're not to put one piece of equipment on my property from now through the end of this flight."

She took a phone call from the White House. Richard Nixon told her: "Your president and the entire nation are watching your husband's progress with concern." And she had to find the words to calm her 12-year-old daughter, Susan, who became distraught when she saw the family's priest at the door.

"Do you really think the best astronaut either one of us knows is going to forget something as simple as how to turn his spaceship around and fly it home?" she said. Behind the composed veneer, Marilyn was in torment. She endured flashbacks to a phone call in 1966 from the astronaut John Young. Two Gemini crew members, Charlie Bassett and Elliot See, had been killed in a plane crash in St Louis, but See's wife was unaware. Young asked Marilyn to go and have a cup of coffee with her friend — without telling her about the accident — in case a reporter turned up before he could get there and break the news. Now she was the one receiving support.

"For four days I didn't know if I was going to be a wife or a widow," she later recalled. "Friends of mine told me that I was in a daze, really." She escaped to the bathroom, knelt on the tiles and prayed. "I really didn't give up," she remembered.

The crew splashed down in the South Pacific on April 17. Aldrin and Armstrong popped champagne in the Lovells' living room. Nixon called again: he would be flying to Honolulu on Air Force One to greet the returning astronauts and wondered if he might pick her up on the way.

Her four-year-old son, Jeff, clung to her red, white and blue dress as she talked to the media outside the house. "Isn't this a great day?" she said. "I am very thankful and humble, thankful to the men at mission control for making it possible for my husband to return to Earth." Then a fashion reporter inquired: "What do you think of the new midi skirts?"

Marilyn Lillie Gerlach was born in

'For four days I didn't know if I was going to be a wife or a widow'

1930 in Milwaukee, to Lillie and Carl, who owned a sweetshop. She met Jim one lunchtime in their high school cafeteria and he asked her out after his date to the prom dropped him at the last minute. She indulged his interest in flight and engineering, watching from the porch of his home as he launched homemade rockets.

Eager to experience life beyond Wisconsin, where she attended a teacher training college, when Jim secured a place at the United States Naval Academy in Maryland she enrolled at the nearby George Washington University, also working part-time in a department store. They married in 1952 after he had graduated and moved across the country for his job as a naval aviator and test pilot.

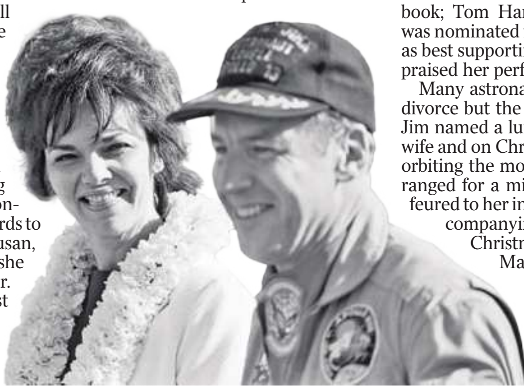
They settled in the Houston area, in a neighbourhood that was popular with Nasa families, when he was selected to be an astronaut in 1962. Her husband survives her along with their children, Barbara and Susan, who raised families in Texas; James, known as Jay, who runs a restaurant near Chicago; and Jeff, a pharmaceutical sales manager in Houston.

Pregnant with Jeff in 1965, she hid the news from Jim for four months — and then from his bosses — fearing that if they found out they would replace him as Gemini 7 pilot on the basis that the launch date was too close to the due date. In the event he spent nearly 14 days in space on his first mission.

Apollo 13 was Jim's fourth and last. He retired from duty in 1973 after a then-record 715 hours in space and entered the private sector. The family moved to the Chicago area and opened a restaurant.

In 1995 Marilyn was played by Kathleen Quinlan in *Apollo 13*, the Ron Howard-directed film based on Jim's book; Tom Hanks was Jim. Quinlan was nominated for an Academy Award as best supporting actress and Marilyn praised her performance.

Many astronaut marriages ended in divorce but the Lovell union endured. Jim named a lunar mountain after his wife and on Christmas Day 1968, while orbiting the moon on Apollo 8, he arranged for a mink jacket to be chauffeured to her in a Rolls-Royce. The accompanying card read: "Merry Christmas and love, from the Man in the Moon."



Marilyn Lovell, astronaut's wife, was born on July 11, 1930. She died on August 27, 2023, aged 93

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Jeremy Marshall

Evangelist and philanthropist who became the first head of Hoare's bank from outside the family

Jeremy Marshall used to joke that "some people think the highest calling for a Christian is to be a missionary in a cannibal-infested island, closely followed by being a missionary on a cannibal-free island". Lowest, he admitted, were money makers, and worst of all were bankers.

Yet Marshall was equally at home in church and counting house, believing that all lawful professions were worthwhile. After heading the UK wing of the private bank of Credit Suisse, he became the first chief executive of C Hoare & Co, the UK's oldest existing private bank, to be recruited from outside the founding family. "There's nothing good or bad in having lots of money," Marshall said. "It's a question of what you do with it: whether you give it away and practise philanthropy and help others, or waste it on big yachts and things like that. Hoare has strong Christian roots and our core, defining motto at the bank was to treat our customers as we would wish to be treated. That's an extension of the Christian principle."



He was hired to expand fee-earning businesses such as asset management and investment and tax advice. However, within months of his leaving Hoare due to illness in 2016, the bank sold that arm to Cazenove Capital, part of Schroders. The bank stressed that the two events were unconnected.

In *Beyond the Big C*, his 2019 memoir about coping with cancer, Marshall wrote self-deprecatingly: "Although I am a Christian, I am not an inherently 'religious' person who sails effortlessly from one high point to another. I have doubts and I am often afraid. There is nothing exceptional about me and I am very far from being a model for others."

Since leaving Hoare he had devoted himself to Christian charities. In 2020, he led the acquisition of the Nottingham-based Kingdom Bank by the Pentecostalist Assemblies of God. It lends to and finds insurance for churches, charities and gospel workers. The evangelical charity Stewardship owns a third of the bank's shares.

"We believe that many Christians, and others, are looking for something different," Marshall said. "A bank that is not all about profits but doing what's right, therefore ethical in nature. We will retain and strengthen the bank's Christian character. Depositors get something unique: their money finances building new churches and expanding existing ones — activities beyond the scope of existing banks."

Marshall, who was tall and bespectacled with a natural smile, used his range of contacts to help organisations such as The Word One to One and the charity Generous Giving.

"When Jeremy was diagnosed with a rare form of terminal cancer, he did not succumb to self-pity or despair," said Graham Miller, chief executive of London City Mission. "Instead, he launched a second career as a senior statesman of the UK's evangelical movement. He achieved much more in his ten years of illness than most of us will in our entire lives."

Jeremy Samuel John Marshall was born in Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, in 1963, the only son of John Evans Marshall, who was minister for 45 years of the town's Alexandra Road Congregational Church, and his wife Susan (née Westcott). He had three sisters, one of whom, Sarah, is married to the historian and biographer Sir Anthony Seldon.

Their father was inspired by the American evangelist Billy Graham to take the family on several trips to Russia and eastern Europe, smuggling Bibles to needy churches. Sometimes they hid them in their luggage, on other occasions they used a handful to bribe checkpoint guards. The Marshall children grew up thinking this was how every family spent summers. To pass the time Jeremy, obsessed with the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy, drew maps of JRR Tolkien's imaginary world which his father made him destroy in case the Russians thought they were spies.

After Hemel Hempstead School, where he edited the student magazine, Marshall read history at St John's College, Cambridge, and later took an MBA at the Insead business school. He and three friends went on a 24-hour coach journey to Austria, continuously playing Trivial Pursuit. He won every game.

In 1987, Marshall married Jeanette Bonsels, a nurse, who survives him with their three children: Nathaniel is an art seller, Samuel is a financial planner and Naomi is studying for a DPhil at Oxford.

His City career began with Barclays and Bank of Montreal. Later he moved to Connecticut and Zurich with Credit Suisse before returning to the UK.

He served as chairman of Pastor Training International, Christian Books Worldwide and Christianity Explored, as well as supporting the Christian church in Serbia.

As a keen follower of Watford FC, he cheered them from the terraces even when they were 6-0 down against Manchester City in the 2019 FA Cup final. To promote his memoir, he spoke publicly about his cancer at half-time in a match at the club's Vicarage Road ground.

He enjoyed taking his family on skiing holidays in the Alps. What he lacked in skill on the slopes he made up for by winning at Risk and Monopoly. He was also an enthusiastic member of Hoare's cricket team, persuading his sons to play too.

To the end of his life, Marshall took as his guiding principle the theologian John Wesley's advice: "Earn all you can, save all you can and give all you can."

Jeremy Marshall, banker, was born on May 8, 1963. He died of cancer on August 13, 2023, aged 60

Email: obituaries@thetimes.co.uk

Marriages and engagements

‘She was bad news for my revision’

Kati Lestak, 30, a doctor, and **Coco Newton**, 27, a neuroscientist, were married on July 15, 2023, at Snape Maltings, near Aldeburgh, in Suffolk

LIZISLESPHOTOGRAPHY.COM



Coco and Kati worked on their wedding outfits with a designer. They were married in a concert hall in front of 120 guests

Kati and Coco’s paths must have crossed numerous times as undergraduates at King’s College London. On Wednesday nights, they went to the same sports ground; Kati to play football, and Coco to play hockey. But it took a dating app to bring them together.

Kati was then in her fourth year as a medical student. Coco was in her second year studying biomedical science. Their first date, one evening in June 2016, was at the BFI Southbank bar.

Coco recalls seeing Kati for the first time. “There was this look of a little bit of trepidation but also excitement,” she says. “It is a look I have grown to know.” It was a long date as they stopped at several bars on their walk back to Coco’s flat in Bermondsey, where they said goodbye.

The next day, Coco went to the library to help her flatmate, Jack, with his dissertation, and happened to see Kati, who was studying for exams. Coco approached her for a coffee — which turned into a four-hour break. This became a pattern. “You were very bad for my revision,” Kati tells Coco.

Kati then went on an elective for two months to Canada and Panama. She kept in contact with Coco via video calls. On her return, she informally moved in with Coco and Jack.

Her parents are Hungarian and she was born in London. Coco grew up in Suffolk. Her mother is Dutch and her father is English.

In 2018, Coco moved to Cambridge to do a PhD in clinical neuroscience at Robinson College, designing assessments for diagnosing dementia patients. Kati joined her in 2019 and is working at Peterborough City Hospital. “Coco is a scientist so she is very analytical and rational, whereas I am a little bit more gung-ho about things,” says Kati. “We balance each other out. She keeps me grounded.”

They share the same values and world views. “We have arguments about various things but always in good faith and always open to changing our minds,” says Coco. “Kati provides me with a safety net so that I get to be logical and rational, and also a risk taker. She is the one person who fully enables me to be me. She inspires, motivates and relaxes me.”

They enjoy hiking, cycling, sailing and skiing. Coco took up rowing on moving to Cambridge and was in the winning team against Oxford in the lightweight boat race in 2021. Kati prefers kayaking. “We take our free time very seriously,” she says.

A spirit of competitiveness energises their relationship. “It’s fun to push each other,” says Coco. “That is the defining aspect of our relationship.” For the sake of their marriage, they have decided always to be on the same team when playing Catan, a board game.

They were in their kitchen during the pandemic when Coco said that she thought they should marry within the next couple of years. A race was then on for them each to get an engagement ring made. Coco got there first with a proposal on the summit of Pen y Fan in the Brecon Beacons. It was the most nervous Kati had seen Coco as she got down on one knee. Walkers around them clapped and cheered. A week later, they were staying with Coco’s parents in Aldeburgh, in Suffolk, when Coco came across a ring box as she was looking for sun-cream in Kati’s bag. Later that day, they went for a swim, and Kati proposed on one knee in the breaking waves.

They wanted a long engagement. Coco had always known that she wanted to marry at Snape Maltings, the heritage site on the banks of the River Alde, where she has been going to concerts since she was a baby with her parents. “It was about solidifying our relationship,” says Kati. “We wanted a ginormous celebration with everyone we love. We weren’t that fussed about the minor details.”

They worked together with the designer Silke Taylor to create their wedding outfits. Each walked with their father into the 3pm ceremony in the concert hall at Snape Maltings in front of 120 guests. A guitar duo, De Fuego, played and sang a Hungarian folk song.

The couple wrote their own vows. A family friend read a Hungarian poem that she had written and Coco’s older sister read a Dutch poem. Dutch meat-based snacks known as *bitterballen* were served at the drinks reception. The wedding breakfast was an Italian feast in the restaurant overlooking the river. Instead of a cake, they had a tower of Dutch cheeses.

After the wedding breakfast, they involved guests in the Hungarian tradition of “kidnapping” the bride. Kati was hidden away as Coco had to overcome challenges to win her back, including breaking open a piñata and taking a shot of gin with every thwack.

“There’s no one else who understands me, shares my life better, or loves me so completely as Coco,” says Kati. “When I think of our love, I think of two rocks in the ocean, riding in and out with the tide.”

If you would like to feature a wedding or engagement or the birth of a child on these pages, email readerslives@thetimes.co.uk

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New readers



Alfie Kimber Bithell was born on July 17, 2023, at home in Poole to **Katherine Kimber Bithell**, 33, and **Stuart Bithell**, 37



Stuart is an Olympic gold medallist in sailing and his calming presence — a result, perhaps, of working under pressure — made all the difference when Katherine gave birth to her first child at home. It was an intense, 29-hour ordeal, says Katherine, but it was quite lovely that they could “work together”.

Having been born in a pool of water, Alfie already loves his bathtime and enjoyed a trip out on the water in their speedboat in Poole, where they live. This week they are in St Tropez to watch Stuart sail in a competition.

It has not all been easy. At four weeks Alfie was admitted to hospital with a virus. He has since recovered but “it’s opened us up to the honesty of raising a child”, says Katherine. “It can’t be rosy all the time.”

Jet Charles Jakeman was born on March 29, 2023, at home in Stratford-upon-Avon to **Emily Caines**, 33, and **Adam Jakeman**, 41



Emily’s first child, Stanley, was born premature and her second, Ezra, with hyperinsulinism, a genetic condition. For both she was in and out of hospital, so when it came to delivering her third child, Jet, who was born in March, she opted for a home birth. Giving birth in a pool of water, however, seemed impractical.

“Ezra would definitely have got straight in it,” says Emily, “and so would our three cats, Jasper, Bean and Mungbean.” In the event, Emily gave birth to Jet in the comfort of her bedroom. The whole experience was far more relaxing.

Ezra, 8, and Stanley, 11, are very fond of their baby brother. On a trip to the Isle of Wight last week they were excited to take him to the beach, where they played in the sand with him and showed him the sea.

PHOTOGRAPHER LIAM GILLAN

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College friends find a love to last

ELEANOR EVE AND JAMES MARTIN WERE MARRIED ON NOVEMBER 12, 2022, AT APTON HALL, IN ROCHFORD, ESSEX. THEY FEATURED IN THE TIMES ON FEBRUARY 11, 2023

THE TIMES

Remembering loved ones

Consultant hailed as 'star of modern psychiatry'

Professor Valerie Cowie, 99

When Valerie Field arrived at Aberdeen University in the early 1940s to study medicine she found the teaching staff were all male, while the women in her academic year made up less than a third. And that was with large numbers of potential male medical students seeing action in the Second World War.

It was widely assumed that female graduates, once married, would become homemakers, which produced a wry comment from the newlywed Valerie on the day of her graduation: "Nobody thought I would become a doctor after I became a doctor's wife but this will show them." She had met her future husband, John Cowie, in the wards of the Aberdeen Royal Infirmary and he later asked her out to the cinema over a corpse in the post-mortem room.

From the age of 12, when Valerie picked up a copy of Freud's *The Interpretation of Dreams*, she was "gripped by the power of the subconscious". She had also experienced episodes of depression which she had treated with electroconvulsive therapy, with what she described as a "very successful" result. Like Valerie, John became a consultant psychiatrist and throughout their 20-year marriage the pair would support each other. Yet it was Valerie who became, as a colleague described her, "one of the stars of modern psychiatry".

At Aberdeen University she won several academic prizes and in the late 1940s conducted pioneering research into dietary treatments for phenylketonuria, a condition caused by the build-up of the amino acid phenylalanine which can cause intellectual disabilities. It led to her MD in 1951 and a note from Sir William Fyfe, the university's principal and vice-chancellor, that read: "It's fine to find someone going on with medicine and research in spite of a husband."

After training as a registrar in psychiatry and neurology at the Maudsley and then the Bethlem Royal Hospital in south London, Valerie took a research post at the Maudsley. Britain was yet to get back on its feet after the war and the hospital's internationally heralded and grandly titled MRC Psychiatric Genetics Research Unit was in fact a modest single-storey prefab referred to simply as "the unit".

It became Valerie's place of work for 11 years, initially as a clinical researcher and then a lecturer. Within two years she was assistant director, working under the eminent psychiatrist Eliot Slater who would become a mentor and friend. Valerie's interest lay in genetics and aetiology, and an early area of research was in the development of babies born with Down's syndrome which, as her monograph explained, examined "the first ten months of life through their neurological and psychological testing".





Valerie Cowie researched the early development of babies born with Down's syndrome. Left, with her sons in 1961

Her manually typed document pasted with black-and-white photos earned her a PhD from Guy's Hospital.

With Slater, who was renowned for his genetic and clinical investigations into schizophrenia, manic depressive illness and the neurotic constitution, she co-authored the standard textbook *The Genetics of Mental Disorder*. In 1971, the year of its publication, she became a fellow of the Royal College of Psychiatrists and was later awarded the Burden Research Medal and Prize.

Born in 1924, the only child of Leslie (known as "Fred") Field, who worked as an accountant for the railways, and Lilian (known as "Billie"), who did clerical work, Valerie had a modest upbringing in Harpenden, Hertfordshire. Her grandparents offered to contribute £6 annually to her schooling but in any case she won a full scholarship to St Albans High School for Girls and became head girl and house captain. As a scholarship girl she remembered the minor humiliation of having to return her textbooks at the end of every academic year.

In 1947 she married Cowie, who was seven years her senior, and they had three sons, one of whom, John, died at three days old. Two years later Valerie gave birth to Jonathan, who became an environmental scientist, followed by Robert, an archaeologist. The marriage to John ended in the 1960s and he predeceased Valerie in 1970. She had a couple of brief marriages, one soon after the divorce and another in the 1980s.

From 1961 until her retirement from the National Health Service, Valerie worked as a consultant in London hospitals and in the 1960s was associate professor at the National Institutes of Health in the United States. At Ely Hospital, Cardiff, she was tasked with establishing an academic unit for psychiatric genetics in the Department of Psychological Medicine. She was also interested in autism and in the early 1960s was on the working party at Great Ormond Street for childhood psychosis.

Occasionally, Valerie was asked to appear as an expert witness, and in 1978 she advised a judge that the children of divorced parents should keep their father's name, as they often grew concerned with their biological origin as they got older. It became one of the leading cases in family law textbooks.

Her clinical work did not end with retirement and she continued to keep abreast of the medical world with training courses and lectures. As a young doctor and Jungian, she had undergone a training analysis at the Institute of Psychoanalysis in west London and into her late seventies she worked as a consultant at the Priory Hospital, Roehampton. Up until the age of 96 she was seeing four or five patients a week at home, where she offered psychotherapy and hypnotherapy.

In her work there was compassion and humour, and she relaxed by absorbing herself in the arts. In the late 1940s she befriended the sculptor Jacob Epstein and later his wife Kathleen Garman, and accompanied them by car on a tour of French and Italian cathedrals shortly before Epstein's death. A few years later she had a bust of herself and her sons commissioned by the sculptor David Wynne.

She was a prolific letter writer — and stern grammarian — who also liked to draw, often illustrating the margins of her letters with cartoon figures and animals.

If you would like to commemorate the life of a relative, friend or colleague, call 020 7782 5583 to discuss the content and cost, or email: readerslives@thetimes.co.uk.
thetimes.co.uk/static/terms-and-conditions

Leading member of Co-operative Group who started as milk boy

Urias Todner, 92

As an eight-year-old boy in Ryhope, Sunderland, Urias Todner was once dared by friends to walk across burning coals. Reluctant to turn down a challenge, he did as asked — but skipped the suggestion to do so in bare feet, opting to wear gumboots. While he presumed it would be more protective, the result within a few moments was a painful melting of the rubber against his shins. The scars remained with him for life.

There was a sense of courage and hardy optimism about Urias, who was known as Hughie, that stood him in good stead as he navigated his way through half a century of working for the Co-operative Group across the country.

He left school at 14 and approached the local Co-op for work where he was given the position of milk boy. It was towards the end of the Second World War, when the milk was delivered by horse and cart, and he had to be up early helping to load and distribute the bottles.



Urias Todner with his wife and daughters receiving his MBE in 1992

After a couple of years he was promoted to a role inside the store, initially to help out on the grocery counter. A quick mind, enthusiasm for work and ease with all types of personalities brought him to the attention of the managers and in his mid-twenties he was singled out to attend the two-year diploma in business management at the Co-operative College near Loughborough.

Thereafter, save for a couple of years when he worked elsewhere, his loyalty lay with the business that chimed with his lifelong socialist principles. From his thirties onwards, he took managerial positions with increasing responsibility across England, including in Bristol, Mansfield, Brentwood and the Co-op headquarters in Manchester.

Regarded as a long-serving and dependable employee, Urias went to the top of the group. He became the chief executive of the Coventry and East Mercia Co-op and in 1986 was on the board of the Co-operative Wholesale Society and the Co-op Bank. Ten years later he was appointed president of the Co-op Union and Congress, a role that in 1995 involved showing the Queen around the exhibition in Rochdale to celebrate 150 years of the movement. In 1992 he was appointed MBE for services to retail.

Urias, who was born in 1930, was the middle child of five. His father John was a barber while his mother Susannah ran the home. In 1952 he married Lilian Martin, whom he had known since the age of 12. She was a year older and they raised two daughters: Diane, who became a lecturer in law at Coventry University, and Karen, a solicitor.

In retirement from 1995, Urias worked as a Labour county councillor for Warwickshire, dovetailing his love of politics with a responsibility towards the community. He was a popular and big-hearted figure who liked meeting and chatting to others, and if at home he could sometimes run a patriarchal household, he was also sympathetic to the needs of others and worked beyond the expected hours to secure what he felt they were due.

Staying close to his Sunderland roots, Urias kept his northeast lilt and called everyone "pet", male or female. He was a lifelong Sunderland FC supporter and although he barely drank, the club's win in the FA Cup final of 1973 was the only time, his daughter recalled, that he appeared to have crossed his usual modest alcohol limit.

Register

Births, Marriages and Deaths

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TO THE only God our Saviour, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, power and authority, before all time and now and for ever. Amen.
Jude 1.25 (NRSV)

Bible verses are provided by the Bible Society

Births

DAVEY on 28th August 2023 to Lizzie (née Churchill) and Tom, a son, Bertie Kit Davey, brother to Ottilie.

MARRIOTT
On 25th June 2023 to Katherine (née Huband) and Sam, a daughter, Scarlett Isobel Florence, sister to Inara.

STOCKLER on 6th September 2023 to Catherine (née Hall) and Alexander, a daughter, Amelia Harriet Marie, sister to Frederick Charles Daniel.

Forthcoming Marriages

MR W. D. J. HALDANE AND MISS E. S. BRAY
The engagement is announced between William, son of Mr and Mrs Robert Haldane of Auchterarder, Perthshire, and Emily, daughter of Mr and Mrs Jeremy Bray of West Sussex.

MR T. J. SINNOTT AND MISS G. I. H. E. COLQUHOUN
The engagement is announced between Terrence, son of Mr and Mrs John Sinnott of Mattapoisett, Massachusetts, USA, and Georgina, daughter of Sir Malcolm and Lady Colquhoun of Luss, Argyllshire.

MR C. J. N. ADAM AND MISS A. E. M. CULLEY
The engagement is announced between Charles, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Tom Adam of Tudeley, Kent, and Aminta, second daughter of Mr and Mrs Dan Culley of Witchampton, Dorset.

MR O. P. ROE AND MISS K. C. HARRISON
The engagement is announced between Oliver, only son of Mr John Roe of Brancaster, Norfolk, and Mrs Lucy Roe of Stamford, Lincolnshire, and Katia, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Christopher Harrison of All Stretton, Shropshire.

MR T. J. TAYLOR AND MISS V. H. C. KINGHAM
The engagement is announced between Timothy, only son of Mr and Mrs Paul Taylor of Kilkhampton, Bude, Cornwall, and Vanessa, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs David Kingham of Blackbrook, Dorking, Surrey.

MR E. W. CRAWLEY AND MISS M. R. G. MILLS
The engagement is announced between Edmund, son of Mr Nicholas Crawley and the late Mrs Belinda Crawley, stepson of Mrs Araminta Crawley of Wiltshire, and Matilda, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Mills of London.

LT COL D. N. HIGGINS AND MS S. MONTGOMERY
The engagement is announced between David Higgins and Sarah Montgomery of Camberwell, London.

MR H. W. SHORT AND MISS G. S. A. PILKINGTON
The engagement is announced between Henry William, younger son of Stephen and Angela Short of Rutland, and Georgiana Serena Antonia, daughter of Jeremy Pilkington of North Yorkshire and Marie-Christine Pilkington of Oxfordshire.

MR F. E. G. DEAR AND MISS G. S. ROSE
The engagement is announced between Freddie, elder son of Mr and Mrs Paddy Dear of Shipton Moyne, Gloucestershire, and Gabriella, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Christopher Rose of Shipton Moyne, Gloucestershire.

MR A. J. LAWRENCE AND DR E. C. I. ROSITO
The engagement is announced between Alistair, son of Paul and Catherine Lawrence of Harrogate, and Eva, daughter of Luigi Rosito and Donatella Catarello of Rome.

MR G. E. COOKE-YARBOROUGH AND MISS L. G. SWINTON
The engagement is announced between George, only son of Sir Anthony and Lady Cooke-Yarborough of Barford St Michael, Oxfordshire, and Lucy, daughter of Mr and Mrs Spندy Swinton of Hammersmith, London.

MAJOR J. C. N. BEER AND MS C. L. TOWNSON
The engagement is announced between Major James Beer, The Queen's Royal Hussars, son of Colonel and Mrs Nigel Beer of Chicklade, Wiltshire, and Catherine, daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Townson of North Baddesley, Hampshire.

MR J. H. GLADSTONE AND MISS K. V. WRIGLEY
The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr and Mrs Andrew Gladstone of Craichlaw, Wigtownshire, and Kate, daughter of Mr Patrick Wrigley of Diddlebury, Shropshire, and the late Mrs Lucinda Wrigley.

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Deaths

ASHMAN Neville Alfred (BA, BA Hons) died peacefully on 26th August 2023, aged 90. Beloved uncle, great-uncle and friend. Will be sadly missed. Funeral service to be held at Norwich Cathedral on Wednesday 27th September at 2pm. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, made payable to Alzheimer's Research UK may be sent c/o Allcock Family Funeral Services, Falcon House, 96a City Road, Norwich NR1 2HD or donate at www.allcockfunerals.co.uk.

CALOW Sylvia Mary. Retired Justice of the Peace of Reigate, passed away peacefully at home on Tuesday 15th August 2023, aged 83. Widow to David, mother to Jonathan and Natasha, also proud grandmother to Ben, Henry, Libby, Bea and Zanna. The funeral service will be at 2.30pm on Friday 29th September at Reigate Methodist Church, Reigate. Family flowers only. Inquiries to Stoneman Funeral Service. Tel: 01737 763456. www.stonemanfunerals.co.uk

CLOAD Marcus James Donald died on 4th September 2023, aged 55. Much-loved husband of Caroline, adored father of Katie and Annabel, cherished brother of Justine and the dear son of Barrie. After a private cremation there will be a celebration of Marcus's life at 2.30pm on 21st September at St Mary the Virgin, Braughing, Ware SG11 2PZ. Donations: The Royal Marsden or The Brain Tumour Charity via https://drobinson.donateinmemory.net/profiles/13351.

DEVLIN Dr Esther M (née Carr) died peacefully on 30th August 2023 at Hilton Park, Cambridge, in her 101st year. Wife of the late Lt Col Brian Devlin and mother of Fiona, Hugh, Mark and Patrick, grandmother of Philip, Isobel, Simon, Thomas, Jamie, Paddy, Andrea, Rory, Katie and Johnny, and great-grandmother of 11. Funeral 11am, 18th September, at St Andrew's Church, Mells. Family flowers only, please. May she rest in peace.

GAMAGE Colin died peacefully on 19th August 2023, aged 90. Beloved husband of the late Christine Gamage, cherished father of Amanda, Lucy and James and adored Grandpa to eight grandchildren. Funeral on 27th September at 1.45pm at Bluebell Cemetery, Old London Road, Sevenoaks, TN14 7AE. Family flowers only. Donations to Lord's Taverners via Alex Jones Funeral Directors, Oxted, RH8 0QA.

GRAHAME Iain (Major retd) died peacefully on 4th September 2023, aged 91. Adored husband of Bunny, much-loved father, stepfather and grandfather. Memorial at Bures Church 3pm on Friday 17th November.

HILL Tobias Fleet, poet and author, died on 26th August, aged 53. Beloved husband of Hannah, dear father of Kit, son of Caroline, and of George (deceased), brother of Amelia. Private funeral. Donations, if desired, to: mariecurie.org.uk/donate or thebraintumourcharity.org/donate.

KEARNS Dr Joe, died peacefully on 3rd September 2023, aged 92. Beloved and devoted husband of the late Dr Bozena. Loving father of Chris, Elizabeth, Ed and Nina, and grandfather of Izzie, Louisa, Sean and Sophie. Requiem Mass at 11am on 28th September at Ealing Abbey. No flowers please. Donations if desired to Marie Curie.

MINTON Barry died on 27th August, aged 78. Beloved husband of Maureen, loving father to Clare, Toby, Emmy and Olly and adored grandpa to Millie, Florrie, Rosie, Uzay, Harper and Jesse. After a private family service for committal, a memorial service is to be held at St Michael and All Angels Church, Oxford OX2 7EZ on Friday 22nd September at 2pm. Inquiries to C S Boswell 01865 553737.

O'CONNOR
Peter Edmund passed away on 31st August 2023, aged 82, after a valiant fight against cancer. Beloved husband of Sally, devoted father to Ashling, Natasha and Kassia, cherished grandpa to Seb, Paddy, Leila, Sam, Benedict and Evin. No flowers — donations to Cancer Research UK.

PATRICK Nereida Jennifer (née Eadie) died peacefully on 2nd September 2023, aged 91. Beloved wife of Johnnie and deeply loved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral at St Nicolas Church, Newbury RG14 5HG on 18th September at 1pm. No flowers please.

PRETTEJOHN Joanna Mary (née Best) on 1st September 2023, aged 86. Died peacefully at home. Dearly beloved wife of the late Hugh, and previously of Richard Ecroyd. Adoring mother of Rupert, Edwin, Anna and Eleanor, grandmother of Harry, Lara, Honor, Alfred, Theo, Barnaby, Piers and Verity, and great-grandmother of Cora. The funeral will be held at St George's Church, Brinsop, on Friday 22nd September at 2pm. Family flowers, donations to St Michaels Hospice saintmichaelshospice.org.

SHENTON Peter, beloved husband of Jill and devoted father of Giles and Caroline, died peacefully on 29th August, aged 91. Private family funeral.

WOOD-SMITH
Jean Elizabeth Waydelin "Jeannie"

Died peacefully on Thursday 28th August 2023, aged 87, after a short illness. Much-loved mother of Ian and James, Granny to Alex and Ollie, Jeannie will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her.

Funeral service will be held on Wednesday 20th September at Reading Crematorium, South Chapel, for 11.30am. Family flowers only please. Donations in memory of Jeannie for Royal Osteoporosis Society may be made via www.abwalker.co.uk All inquiries to A.B. Walker & Son Tel: 0118 957 3650.

In Memoriam - War

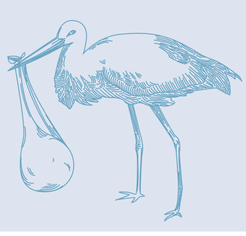
DANIELL JOHN HENRY KIA Burma 80 years ago 10th September. Never forgotten. In loving memory from his daughters Priscilla and Veronica.

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Pursuant to section 719 of the Companies Act 2006 (CA 2006), Truespeed Communications Ltd (Company) hereby gives notice that:
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- The amount of the permissible capital payment (as defined in section 710 of the CA 2006) for the shares in question £622,771.96.
- The directors' statement and the auditors' report required by section 714 of the CA 2006 are available for inspection at the Company's registered office as stated above.
- Any creditor of the Company may at any time within the five weeks immediately following the date of the said special resolution apply to the court under section 721 of the CA 2006 for an order preventing the payment out of capital.

Evangelical upspring will replace fading Anglicanism

Credo
Chris Wadibia



George Orwell, characterising British Christianity, once wrote of "old maids biking to Holy Communion through the mists of the autumn mornings". Orwell's words defined a part of Christianity once dominant in English society. Since 1531, when Pope Clement VII denied Henry VIII's petition for a divorce from Catherine of Aragon, an event that led to the establishment of the Church of England, Christianity in Britain has been imbued into the sociocultural lifeblood of the British state.

In 2023, almost 500 years after the Church of England's creation, it can rightly be said that the Christianity Britain has known for half a millennium is dying. Results of the government's 2021 census, reported late last year, revealed that for the first time in the recorded history of British religion, less than half the population of England and Wales identified as Christian. Since then, many observers have concluded that Christianity in Britain reached its summit long ago.

However, in the Christian faith tradition, nothing dies without opening the door for a greater, more abundant life to step forward — and British Christianity is no exception. In 2022, the UK welcomed more than 606,000 migrants, some of whom relocated to the UK from regions with large Christian populations, such as sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America.

Many of these migrants emigrated to the UK in search of economic opportunities and some to evangelise their new non-Christian neighbours.

The type of Christianity these migrants brought with them could not be more radically different from Orwell's vision of Christianity, for which British society has apparently lost its appetite.

Rather than the nostalgic motif of "old maids biking to Holy Communion", future British Christianity will be marked by excited crowds of hip British-Nigerian Pentecostal youths at Sunday morning worship services. Instead of "mists of the autumn mornings" greeting Sunday worshippers, we might see summer sunshine on the faces of British-Brazilian Catholics hurrying to attend Sunday Mass.

These now-commonplace British Christian realities demonstrate how British Christianity is quickly becoming more representative of the wider global faith. The Pew Research Center's 2017 report *The Changing Global Religious Landscape* revealed how the world's centre of Christianity (in terms of numbers of followers) is shifting away from the historical centres of Europe and North America. By 2050, less than 16 per cent of the world's projected 2.9 billion Christians will live in Europe, and more than 60 per cent of the world's Christians will live in sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America. The centres of Christianity in the world of the 22nd century will be Lagos, Sao Paolo and Manila rather than London, St Petersburg or Rome.

These changing dynamics suggest that despite the decline in followers of traditional British Christianity, the emerging corpus of British Christianity will be far more fit for purpose when serving the spiritual and social needs of the country's increasingly diverse Christian population.

Dynamic, popular worship songs imported from global evangelical megachurches will soon replace older English hymns, beautiful as some are, as fewer and fewer worshippers sing them.

Another feature of the new British Christianity could be the decline of "cultural Anglicans", those within the Church of England whose tenuous identification with the church reflects a bygone era of intertwined patriotism and piety rather than stronger belief or spirituality.

Pentecostalism, famous for its focus on the Holy Spirit and vibrant, participative worship practices, is the fastest-growing Christian denomination globally, and its associated charismatic influence can increasingly be felt around Britain.

The rise of a British Pentecostalism led by pastors with roots in the global south promises to offer joy, community and guidance for those who practise it. A growth of charismatic British Christianity will play out as new generations of genuinely devout British Christians, inspired by the societal normalising of passion-centric and prophecy-orientated charismatic Christian values and ethics, begin living out their faith freely and unashamedly. Some will take centre stage in a resurrected British Christian landscape once dominated by cultural Anglicans.

The passing age of Orwell's British Christianity should be welcomed. A moribund version of Christianity will give way to a revitalised faith whose believers will be dominated by younger generations. Mourning the decline of traditional British Christianity is understandable for those who have spent their lives dedicated to it, but it is not the end of the British church by any means.

The new, multi-ethnic British Christianity positively reflects changing global patterns in Christianity and the evolving social realities of modern Britain.

A growing ecosystem of institutions has been founded in recent years to study Britain's changing Christian landscape. The Woolf Institute, based in Cambridge, is one such organisation. We predict that evolving British Christianity will have significant impacts on British politics, from the rise of conservative, faith-based sociopolitical ideals to new generations of interfaith relations.

Chris Wadibia is a junior research fellow at Oxford University and a PhD scholar at the interfaith charity the Woolf Institute

Court Circular

Balmoral Castle
8th September, 2023
The King and Queen attended Crathie Kirk for private prayers and reflection on the life and service of Her Late Majesty The Queen.

Kensington Palace
8th September, 2023
The Prince and Princess of Wales this afternoon undertook engagements in St David's, Haverfordwest, and were received by His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Dyfed (Ms Sara Edwards).

Their Royal Highnesses attended a Service in St David's Cathedral and afterwards met members of the local community.

The Prince and Princess of Wales later visited Câr-y-Môr Seaweed Farm, St Justinian's Bay.

Their Royal Highnesses afterwards met volunteers from the Royal National Lifeboat Institution at the Royal National Lifeboat Institution St David's Lifeboat Station, St Justinian's Bay.

St James's Palace
8th September, 2023
The Princess Royal, Chairman, International Olympic Committee Members Election Commission, this afternoon participated in a Meeting via video link.

Kensington Palace
8th September, 2023
The Duke of Gloucester, Grand Prior, the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem, this morning attended a Rededication Service for the Order of St John Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum, Croxall Road, Alrewas, and was received by His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Staffordshire (Mr Ian Dudson).

The Duchess of Gloucester, Patron, Parkinson's UK, this afternoon attended a Lunch, and subsequently attended the September Racing Weekend, at Ascot Racecourse, Berkshire.

The Times Saturday Quiz Olav Bjortomt

1 Wandsworth Prison is located in a southwest borough of which city?

2 A kippah or yarmulke is worn where on the body by Jewish males?

3 The name of which tool, used for chopping wood, is slang for an electric guitar?

4 Allen Carr wrote the 1985 book *The Easy Way to Stop*. . . which habit?

5 Succeeding William III, who became queen of Great Britain and Ireland in 1702?

6 Which EM Forster novel features a trip to the Marabar Caves near the fictional city of Chandrapore?

7 Which prince consort owned the greyhound Eos, the subject of an 1841 painting by Edwin Landseer, best known for his animal portraits?

8 For Christmas, Shirley Clarkson made the first soft toy of which bear for her children Joanna and Jeremy?

9 "The mission is a man" was the tagline for which 1998 war film, directed by Steven Spielberg?

10 "The iconic red Italian bitter" — which alcoholic liqueur was invented in Novara in 1860?

11 In 1819, which English poet wrote: "I met Murder on the way/ He had a mask like Castlereagh"?

12 Which TV show's three core characters are Charles-Haden Savage, Oliver Putnam and Mabel Mora?


20

ALAMY

13 Which British big band leader and trombone player shared his name with a Tory prime minister?

14 In a 1531 incident, which bishop's cook, Richard Roose, served poisoned porridge that killed two people?

15 Which New South Wales mining city is known as "the Silver City" and the "Capital of the Outback"?

16 Which Zambian-born Zimbabwean singer had a 1991 hit with *Everybody's Free (To Feel Good)*?

17 In 1967, Jocelyn Bell Burnell found the first radio pulsar in which constellation?

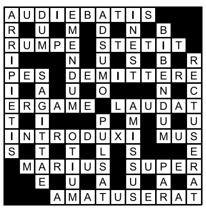
18 The Doha-born British boxer Abdul-Bari Awad shares his nickname with which 1962 Elvis film?

19 In 2013, which woman became the first person to swim from Cuba to Florida without a shark cage?

20 Which 1967 film, starring Paul Newman, is pictured?

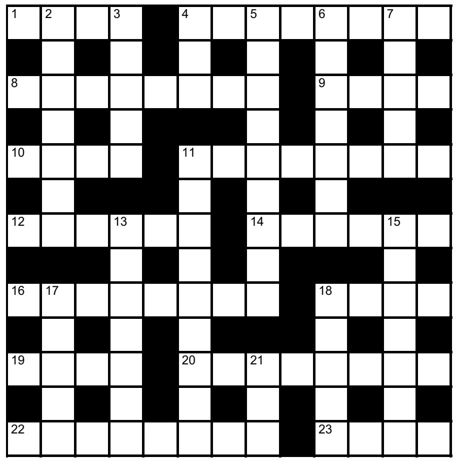
Answers below right

Last week's O Tempora! solution



O Tempora! Crossword CDXIV by Lanifica

A weekly crossword for the classically minded



Clues, which may be straight or mildly cryptic, always lead to answers in Latin

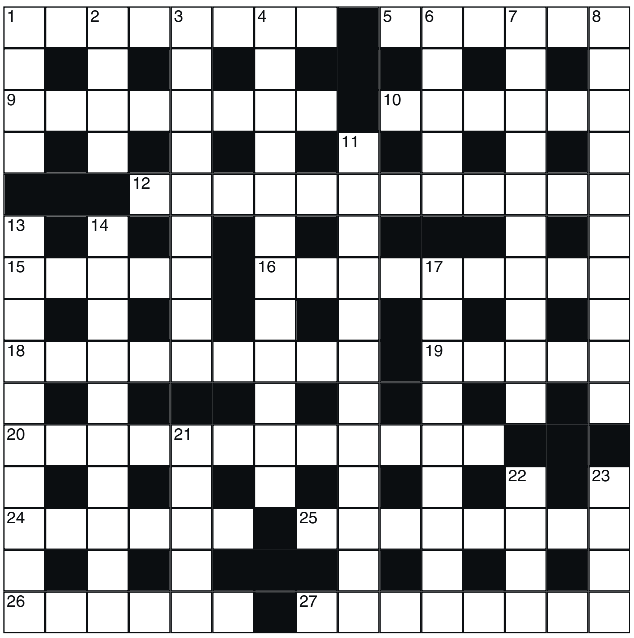
Across

1 ___ Marcum, at Mark's place (or in his works) (4)
4 Illi quibus spolia (8)
8 Dilexisti, non neglexisti (8)
9 Gloomy, dark and dismal (4)
10 You know and understand, eg vincere ___, Hannibal, Livy 22.51 (4)
11 She went in, ingressa est (8)
12 They were, 3rd plur. impf. subj. sum (6)
14 I'm tottering, wavering or perplexed (6)
16 You ask us what we've got, rogas quid ___ (8)
18 Look after with care (4)
19 This one, him here (acc.) (4)
20 Stalks, straw, vide eg Geo. 1.289, nocte leves melius ___ ... / tondentur (8)
22 In assembly, at the meeting: in ___ (7)
23 It falls, eg vis consili expers mole ___ sua, Hor. C. 3.4.65 (4)

Down

2 Stones for smoothing (skin or books) (7)
3 Godly and divine, like Augustus, for example (5)
4 Dish, vessel (3)
5 Tufted and plumed, eg ___ Achilles, Aen. 1.468 (9)
6 Rogabant, supplicabant, precabantur (7)
7 I've completed, eg monumentum aere perennius, Hor. C. 3.30.1 (5)
11 I'm swelling up, elated or angry (9)
13 He works at and employs; se ___, he's working out (7)
15 Viri intonsi (7)
17 I scorch, singe and set on fire, accendo (5)
18 Blood, so bloodshed, murder (5)
21 To go, whether by foot, horse or boat (3)

Times Crossword No 28,704



Across

1 **Churchill maybe organised maritime intelligence away from home (8)**
5 **Red book he carries about (6)**
9 **One seeking favour clubs together with the bank we use? (8)**
10 **What to find in Switzerland, with a lease? (6)**
12 **Roving arch-felon, he initially met one among the Welsh Marches (3,2,7)**
15 **Ten rupees to secure chief's divine flower! (5)**
16 **Not from New Cross — Kentish Town (9)**
18 **Lots of bones in chronic fatigue, so long a problem for typists? (9)**
19 **Narrow margin reflected by minute particle (5)**
20 **What exposed Yorick's tricks? (12)**
24 **Old nurse to use a stretcher? (6)**
25 **Agree to forge police certificate finally (8)**
26 **Lethargy of men left, with time advancing (6)**
27 **In one hand, a yellow parrot (8)**

Down

1 **Reduction in daycare raised — or suggesting it? (4)**
2 **Most countries turned against this country's northern capital (4)**
3 **Not hotter after exercising or running (2,3,4)**
4 **Absurd matter concerning one who sends old packs (12)**
6 **Hate rating personnel? Nothing stops it (5)**
7 **Cobblers under more obvious suspicion (10)**
8 **With odd penchant for wearing cape, Yankee's meant to grab attention (10)**
11 **Before noon, tea, alcohol and curry in cubicle (8,4)**
13 **Critical examination with books has got to French art student, ultimately (6,4)**
14 **Athlete's attempt to join club (4-6)**
17 **US group make track primarily for artist (9)**
21 **Act of self-harm — and love — to raise tongue (5)**
22 **Maybe reading newspapers in which one finds fault (4)**
23 **Change one of Queen Victoria's letters in full? (4)**

A £20 Waterstones gift voucher will be awarded to the senders of the first five correct solutions opened on Thursday. Enter by post to: Times Crossword No 28,704, PO Box 2164, Colchester, Essex CO2 8LJ, or by email to: prize@thetimes.co.uk, with "Crossword 28704" in the subject line. Open to 18+, UK & ROI residents only. Winners and solutions will appear on Monday week.

Name/Address...

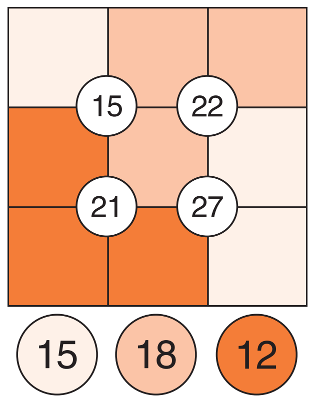
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Solution No 28,703



Suko No 3903



Place the numbers 1 to 9 in the spaces so that the number in each circle is equal to the sum of the four surrounding spaces, and each colour total is correct.

Solution MindGames in Saturday Review

Quiz answers 1 London. 2 On the head. 3 Axe. 4 Smoking. 5 Anne. 6 *A Passage to India*. 7 Prince Albert. 8 Paddington. (Jeremy became the motoring journalist and TV presenter). 9 *Saving Private Ryan*. 10 Campari. 11 Percy Shelley, in *The Masque of Anarchy*. 12 *Only Murders in the Building*. 13 Ted Heath. 14 Bishop of Rochester or John Fisher. (Roose was executed by being boiled to death). 15 Broken Hill. 16 Rozalla. 17 Vulpecula. 18 *Kid Galahad*. 19 Diana Nyad. 20 *Cool Hand Luke*.

Concise Quintagram answers
1 Gawp 2 Quite 3 Musk ox 4 Vibrancy 5 Half-dozen.



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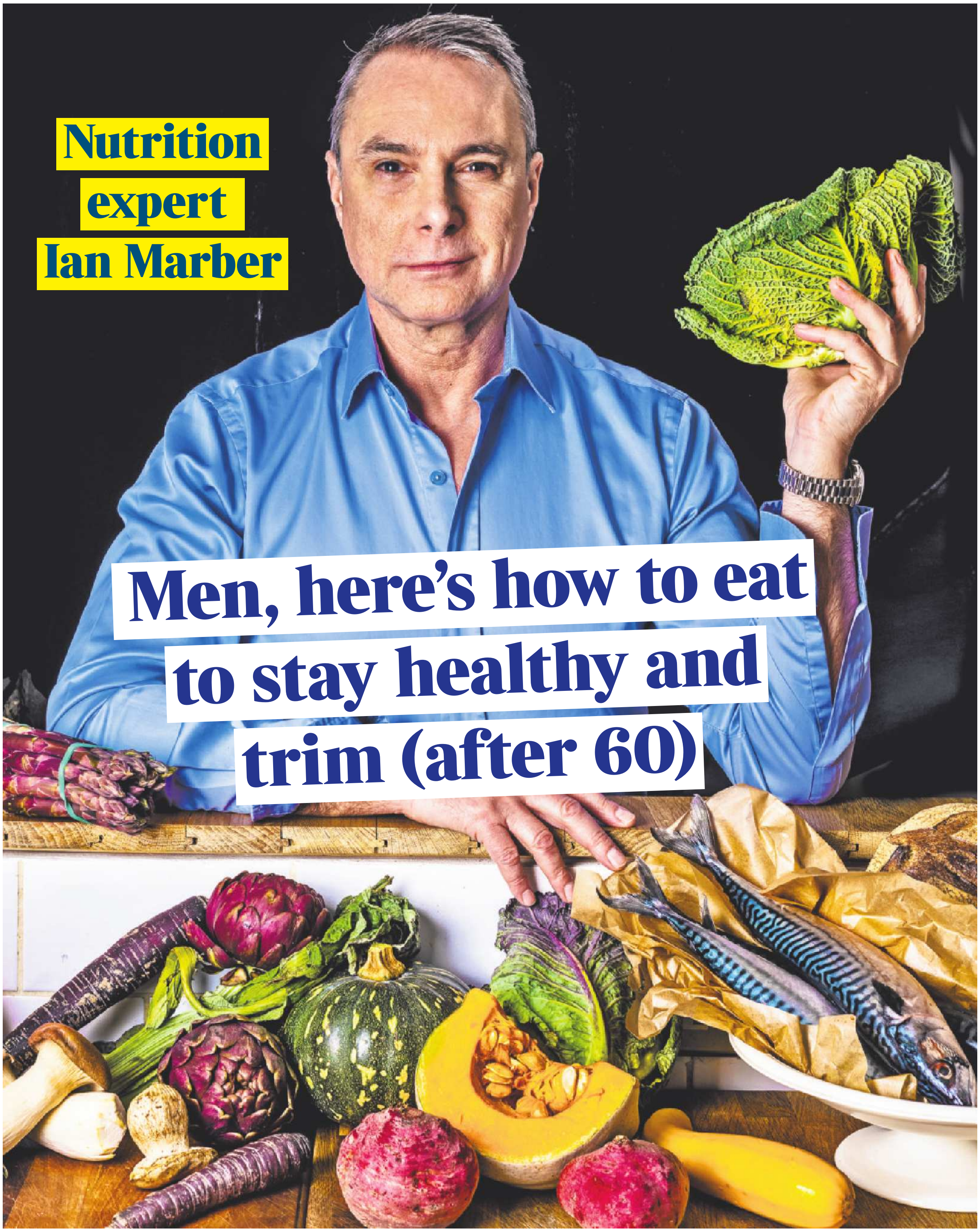


How much salt are you really eating?

Plus Robert Peston: I'd like to get married

Weekend

Travel starts on page 37



Nutrition expert Ian Marber

Men, here's how to eat to stay healthy and trim (after 60)

Opposites attract
Are you truly compatible?



Best walking holidays
25 beautiful breaks in Europe



Eating after 60: a man's guide to

The nutrition expert Ian Marber is turning 60. Here are the key foods he's eating to ensure that he stays fit and healthy



My late father said that when you turn 40 you're still young, and at 50 you can still fool yourself that you are. At 60, however, there's nowhere to hide. He was right, everything gets riskier with age — the average age of a first heart attack for men is 65, for example, while hypertension affects 67 per cent of men aged 55-74. I'm turning 60 in December, and while I am not especially bothered about it (better than the alternative, as Dad also used to say), I do hope to reach this and the following milestones in decent health.

I have been a nutrition therapist for 24 years, helping clients of all ages to improve their health through what they eat, and I believe that, at this stage in my life in particular, good nutrition is the cornerstone to health. A diet that is rich in fibre, complex carbohydrates, lean protein and good fats can help to reduce the risk of progressive health conditions, ranging from cardiovascular disease to impaired cognitive function.

For the most part I practise what I preach. I eat well and modestly, keeping an eye on my weight, which fluctuates between 77kg and 80kg (12st 2lb and 12st 8lb). I exercise three times a week but am aware that I should be doing more weight-bearing exercise to maintain muscle tone and yoga or Pilates to improve flexibility and core strength. I drink red wine, never more than the upper limit of 14 units a week, although I try to limit myself to one glass three or four times a week as I find alcohol affects my sleep and energy levels more than it used to.

I maintain my mood by doing the things that bring me joy, such as spending time with friends and family, reading books, watching films and, more recently, walking and doing spin classes, as well as treating myself to the occasional Bendicks Bittermint.

As I approach 60, I can't help but be aware of the various health issues that are becoming increasingly important. Here's what I eat to protect myself.

Keep blood pressure down with nuts and seeds

I am always mindful of overall heart health as my father had a heart attack and bypass in his fifties (though he lived to 84). Blood pressure can creep up as we age — not to show off, but mine is still 120/75, the healthy range being anywhere between 90/60 and 120/80. Hypertension, or raised blood pressure, is a significant contributor to cardiovascular disease and can be influenced by several factors. Family history plays a role, as do poor sleep, stress, cholesterol levels, being overweight, and alcohol and salt intake. Blood pressure is linked to the balance between sodium (found in salt) and potassium. In broad terms, sodium is found in the fluids outside the body's cells while potassium is found primarily inside cells. Too much salt will increase blood volume, pushing up pressure.

We only need some 200mg salt a day (to help the body with nerve and muscle function), which is actually very little considering that the NHS advises an upper limit of 6g a day. While I only eat a minimal amount of processed foods — these tend to be rich in salt — I do add a little to food to enhance the flavour. You can offset salt intake by increasing potassium levels, so I eat plenty of fruit, vegetables, legumes, nuts and seeds, which go some way to counteracting my modest sprinkles. Ideally we should aim for 4,700mg potassium a day, a level achieved by eating lots of fruits and vegetables. A medium-sized sweet potato provides 542mg, a banana 422mg, 100g cooked spinach 466mg and two slices of watermelon 641mg.

How to maintain cholesterol levels — essential as we age

There is a strong link between raised cholesterol and heart disease over the age of 50. Many factors can influence raised cholesterol, including lack of exercise, being overweight, smoking and eating excess foods high in saturated fats, such as red meat, dairy and many processed foods. We need a small amount of saturated fat in our diet but the upper limit is 30g a day (100g rib-eye steak has 10g and a 25g slice of cheddar cheese 6g).

Cholesterol is made in the liver and excess is cleared away via the gut. To do this efficiently the gut needs plenty of fibre. One type of fibre, beta-glucan, is especially good at clearing cholesterol, and is found in oats, barley, rye and shiitake and maitake mushrooms. Ideally we should aim for 3g daily — I crumble a couple of oatcakes onto salad or vegetables, or have one with nut butter as a snack (one oatcake supplies about 1g beta-glucan, while there are 3g in a small bowl of porridge).


Ian Marber

Despite my efforts — a diet rich in fibre of all types and low in saturated fats — my total cholesterol had been creeping up for genetic reasons. I took the advice of a cardiologist five years ago and started taking a statin at a low dose. Along with paying attention to my diet, my cholesterol levels are now fine.

You need 20 per cent more calcium a day at 60 than you do at 50 — eat yoghurt, tofu or almonds daily

Osteoporosis affects about one in five men over 50 (compared with one in three women) and the risk can be exacerbated by alcohol and smoking, as well as by being deficient in certain minerals, notably magnesium and calcium, along with vitamin D.

Over the age of 55 your levels of stomach acid fall, which may impair digestion and affect the absorption of key minerals, including magnesium and calcium, which are directly involved in maintaining bone density. I need about 1,200mg of calcium daily, 20 per cent more than I would have a decade ago.

I make sure I include calcium-rich foods in my daily diet, and start the day with a breakfast of Greek yoghurt (90g of calcium in two tablespoons) with nuts and berries. I add other sources during the day too — a third of a pint of milk has about 250mg, an 85g serving of sardines has 370mg and a matchbox-size piece of cheddar has 201mg.

Lentils, spinach, oats, pumpkin seeds and all green vegetables are especially rich in magnesium, and some of these feature in my diet every day.

My three essential supplements

Vitamin D

Being deficient in vitamin D can exacerbate your risk of osteoporosis. I take a daily supplement, as indeed we all should, certainly in winter. The minimum recommended daily dose is 400iu (I take a Solgar D3 capsule every day).

Vitamin B12

I also take a daily 150mcg supplement of vitamin B12 as it helps with energy production.

Magnesium

I take 200mg of magnesium last thing at night as it can help to promote sleep and reduce early waking.

What I eat for brain function and memory

Doing what I can to avoid cognitive decline is increasingly important. Risk factors are very varied but include raised blood pressure, cholesterol, excess alcohol and poor sleep. I am confident that these aren't too much of a problem for me, save the pinot noir, but I make sure that my intake of omega-3 fats — which contribute to the maintenance of normal brain function — is consistent by eating salmon, mackerel, anchovies or tuna three times a week.

There are three forms of omega-3: eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA) and docosahexaenoic acid (DHA), both of which are found in high concentrations in oily fish such as mackerel, tuna and herring; and alpha linolenic acid (ALA), which is found in flaxseed, chia seeds and walnuts. All have similar properties, although the marine versions are

health (and a flat stomach)

COVER: ROMAS FOORD FOR THE TIMES. BELOW: GETTY IMAGES





Eat eggs to combat muscle loss



Start the day with Greek yoghurt

considered marginally superior.

I include chopped walnuts in my breakfast yoghurt and a sprinkle of mixed seeds on salads or soups. Omega-3 fats also have anti-inflammatory properties and can help to reduce cholesterol and blood pressure.

Older men should eat 30g of fibre every day to boost declining gut bacteria

Levels of beneficial bacteria decline with age, and as they play a role in digesting food and reducing the ill effects of unwanted bacteria in the body, as well as having an influence on metabolic health, I try to eat in a way that encourages the bacteria I do have to flourish. Fibre is especially important and so I aim for 30g a day (which may seem a lot given that the average intake among UK adults is more like 18g) from as many different sources as possible. These include oats, nuts and seeds, fruits, vegetables and legumes. There's 5g of fibre in an orange, 9.2g in half a can of cannellini beans, 2g in a tablespoon of mixed seeds, 3.8g in a palmful of almonds and 10g in a small bowl of porridge.

I also eat some fermented food daily because it's a good source of probiotics: yoghurt, pickled vegetables mixed into a salad, miso and sauerkraut. I also drink kefir every now and again. I take a probiotic supplement every few days, more often when travelling. Choose one that doesn't require refrigeration, such as Optibac Everyday Max.

Make sure every meal and snack contains some protein to maintain muscle mass

Another challenge I'm facing is sarcopenia: the reduction in muscle mass, strength and function, which generally affects up to 20 per cent of people aged 60 (and up to 50 per cent of those aged 80 and over). I had a viral infection a few weeks ago and lost 3kg in a week and was alarmed at how much of this was visible in my muscle tone, which has reminded me once again how much my body is changing with age.



Limit drinking to one glass three times a week

It's not just about aesthetics, because muscle mass is linked to mortality rates, and is influenced in part by protein intake, exercise and testosterone.

The general rule of thumb is to consume 1g protein per kilo of body weight, twice or more a week — rising to about 1.5g a day if undertaking regular weight-bearing exercise. I weigh 77kg, but because I include some weight-bearing exercises in my routine I aim for 100-120g protein daily. For reference, an average chicken breast contains about 27g of protein; an egg 6g; a 200g salmon fillet 40g; and four tablespoons of chickpeas 10g. I find the best way to get adequate protein is to ensure I have some with every meal and snack. As well as my breakfast of Greek yoghurt with walnuts, I usually have a mid-morning and mid-afternoon snack — that could be nut butter on an oatcake, or a boiled egg, cherry tomatoes and mixed seeds.

How to eat for a healthy prostate

Prostate enlargement, also known as benign prostate enlargement (BPE), affects more than one in three men over 50 and occurs when the number of cells in the prostate increase. Symptoms include needing to pee more often and a weaker flow, and while BPE is commonplace, some of the symptoms can mirror those of prostate cancer, and so it is important to consult a GP if any changes occur. Prostate inflammation is also more common in men over 50, and unlike prostate enlargement, the existing cells become inflamed, more often than not due to a bacterial infection.

There is evidence that vitamin C, lutein and beta-carotene may help to offset the risk of BPE. You'll find these nutrients in brightly coloured foods, including sweet potato, corn, berries, green vegetables and egg yolk, although there are many other examples.

Prostate cancer affects one in six men and is most likely to affect men over 75. It is more common in black men, with east Asian men at the lowest risk.

Neither of my parents nor my siblings have had either prostate or breast cancer, either of which would have increased my risk. Other issues include being overweight and smoking, as well as high levels of a hormone called insulin growth factor (IGF1-1), found in dairy products. (IGF-1 is also manufactured in the body, stimulated by protein consumption.) That does not mean that dairy should be avoided, but intake should be modest, limited to no more than four servings such as a matchbox-sized lump of cheese, a small pot of yoghurt or milk in tea/coffee/ porridge a day.

I eat cruciferous vegetables daily — a few spears of broccoli at lunch, some cabbage or half a small roasted cauliflower or stir-fried pak choi with dinner — as there is evidence that the indole-3-carbinol and sulforaphane they contain can inhibit the proliferation of cancer cells and reduce the risk of the most aggressive form of prostate cancer.

Many of the supplements that cite prostate health as one of their benefits include lycopene, part of a group of nutrients called carotenoids. The evidence that lycopene can help to reduce prostate inflammation and cancer risk is limited, but given that it occurs naturally in foods such as red peppers, watermelon and tomato, it makes sense to include them in the diet. Lycopene is more easily digested from cooked foods, and so I often include baked tomatoes or tomato soup in meals.

I also drink green tea, as it contains two types of catechin, antioxidant compounds also found to a lesser degree in black tea, that may inhibit a protein found in cancerous cells.

What I eat for youthful skin (yes, men think about this too)

Approaching 60, I look after my skin more carefully than I used to, following advice from the skincare guru Caroline Hirons, a friend. I now use a moisturiser with SPF in it every day and include vitamin C serum and retinoid to improve the texture of my skin. Eating a diet that is rich in omega-3 fats, found in oily fish, soya, walnuts and chia seeds, helps to maintain hydration in the skin. I also eat plenty of foods containing vitamin C that help to maintain collagen in the skin, including berries, peppers, spinach and sweet potato.

Mild fatigue is a constant companion — small, frequent meals are what help

Where did my energy go? Even ten years ago I used to do so much more without getting tired and now mild fatigue is my shadow. There are so many possible reasons why this might be, not least the natural decline in muscle mass as cells in the muscles usually contain more mitochondria, which are the minuscule structures in cells that produce energy.

I find that eating small, regular meals helps — with each containing a combination of fibre and protein it promotes a steady production of glucose leading to consistent energy levels. That could be a sandwich made with one slice of fibre-rich granary bread with hummus, chicken, fish or indeed any protein. Or a grilled steak with green beans, broccoli, courgettes and a generous tablespoon of brown rice or quinoa. Or perhaps a vegetable soup with added chickpeas/lentils/mixed beans for protein, topped with toasted pumpkins seeds.

A man of my age who is active needs about 2,200 calories a day to maintain weight, while an inactive man needs about 2,000. There are many ways to eat within the required calorie levels, but I find that eating this way — with protein and complex carbs together in small meals, little and often — manages my appetite well while maintaining energy levels, and this allows me to maintain my weight. Even though calories feel outmoded and unfashionable, creating an energy deficit is the only way to lose weight.

Opposites do attract — after 28 years we are living proof

A new study says similarity is the secret of lasting love. Anna Maxted and Phil Robinson beg to differ



Phil Robinson and Anna Maxted

Anna's story

When Phil and I got together, 28 years ago, friends and family didn't hide their bafflement. The consensus was that we had nothing in common and it wouldn't last. Our enduring relationship might also bemuse the authors of a study published this week in the journal Nature Human Behaviour, which concluded that in love, opposites don't attract.

For more than 80 per cent of the traits the researchers analysed — from people's politics to how much they weighed at birth and their age when they first had sex — partners were more likely than not to be similar. Phil and I differ in two of the above, and so much more: class, religion, interests and personality.

> He loved drink, clubs and being outrageous. I don't really like alcohol and am a horrid dancer

Although my father grew up in grim poverty, I had a middle-class upbringing. Phil's background is working class and he has a London accent. I ditched one posh friend who asked me — in front of him — if Phil ever said anything "common". (How ironic.) I coldly replied: "Phil is the least common person I've ever met."

He was sensitive, kind, wise — still is — but on the face of it, we were opposites. Phil loved parties, clubbing, drinking and being outrageous. I don't like alcohol beyond a glass of red and am a horrid dancer. He's making new friends at 2am when I long to be at home with my cat.

I liked the comfort of routine, he loved living dangerously. He wrote travel adventure stories for a lads' magazine — hacking through jungle, being pawed at in his hammock by a panther, or chased by an alligator was all in a day's work. Meanwhile, I was primly commissioning features on sex at a women's magazine in central London, sending the work experience forth to secure my peanut butter on toast from Cranks.

The apparent differences are what make your relationship interesting. And when, despite those differences, there's understanding and familiarity, it's thrilling. The feeling I had when I met Phil was of recognition.

This year, a quarter of a century later, I sat it out in a French water park (my back, my glasses, my easily blocked ears). Meanwhile, my husband was dropped vertically off a fake waterfall in a glass box. His gung-ho spirit and my "stop, no!" spirit are a sparky combination. What attracts is far more nuanced than the often shared trait, according to the study, of growing up in the same area. (Kill me now.)

While our experiences differ, our sensibilities align. We both were bookworms as kids. But while I attended a top grammar for girls, Phil went to one of the worst comps in Britain. My experience of secondary school was chortling with the English teacher over the wit in *Emma*. Phil's PE teacher punched him in the face and broke his nose. I went to Oxbridge, Phil attended, as he calls it, "Polytechnic Point of the Compass".

It's funny that the characteristics couples were most likely to share, according to the study, include "certain measures of IQ". It's the only finding that applies to us. I think we are equally clever, and stupid, in different ways — very helpful in a marriage. Phil, largely self-educated, is always learning and embracing new things (opera, jazz, how to sail — he just aced his short-range VHF marine radio certificate). I still listen to Duran Duran and can't even work the TV when he's away. Which is a shame as I could watch my favourite Nordic noir without inconveniencing him. (Before the blood has stained the snow, he's scrolling TikTok on his phone.)

I've no interest in TikTok as I'm three years older (couples in the study were most likely to be born in the same year), which he says makes me a different generation. He also plays video games to relax. I can't relate. After Phil went through a stressful patch, our 16-year-old son advised that Dad was playing too much *Hell Let Loose*.

If Phil and I were alike, life would either be screamingly sensible or wildly out of control. Isn't a relationship about being contradictory, complementary people who often confound each other yet somehow connect? A recent source of disagreement was the question, if I saw a kitten on the hard shoulder, would Phil pull over? Absolutely not. (He would, though.) I know we're not unusual.

Phil's story

In spite of the research published in the journal Nature Human Behaviour, I can't imagine sharing 80 per cent of Anna's likes. We are fundamentally different from the ground up. Anna likes chocolate desserts, I like lemon. She listens to American



CHRIS MCANDREW FOR THE TIMES; TOM WERNER/GETTY IMAGES



college rock, I would rather swallow my earbuds.

Our marriage is now in its 28th year, but if either of us had filled out a lonely hearts ad, neither of us would have answered it.

Examples? I like long walks and exploring, Anna likes sitting down — preferably with a book and a cat. I like socialising and drinking and arguing and occasionally being incredibly noisy, Anna likes listening to people. I like hugs, Anna would happily exist within a yellow painted box that says "DO NOT CROSS THIS LINE".

I can go on. Anna likes watching ballet, I like sleeping through it. I use the vacuum cleaner, Anna treats it like the fossil of a small dinosaur that she must step over to get to the bathroom. I think the cat belongs on the floor, Anna thinks: "We're eating at the table, the cat should join us, along with his bowl of cat food."

Rather than have us ending up like *The Fast Show*'s Roy and Renée, these differences make our relationship and life more fun. They add colour.

The weird thing is that our superficial differences mask fundamental similarities. Although we come from different religions, we are culturally similar. I also grew up in a very Jewish area of the East End of London and Anna was my third Jewish girlfriend. If her extended family were reasonably chilled about her marrying out, it was probably because I had almost as much in common with them as she did.

Perhaps at the start of our relationship our compatibility wasn't obvious to our friends or family. I was a party person, she was a quiet bookish nerd. She would barely start a drink, and I didn't know when to stop.

> " I like long walks, Anna likes sitting down, preferably with a book and a cat

My read of our relationship is that the only thing we have ever obviously had in common are our values. We both always wanted to be married and have children (a few years after), and we both like to work hard and love our work. We find each other's company soothing, entertaining and interesting. Anna might moan about me listening to jazz, but I enjoy the emotional complexity. The fact is that Anna is the jazz of women. She's not a thumping beach bar jolly house-track sort of person. She's got angles. I like angles.

And I suppose in this intangible thing — while on the surface we appear to want different things as an extrovert and an introvert, deep down we have a similar emotional tone. If you want to spend the rest of your life with someone, and still crave their company after twentysomething years, then I imagine this is pretty essential.

Most of all my relationship has taught me never to try to rate or read the worth of another person's relationship. You can never know the underlying need that people have for one another. This is something we may never know ourselves.

So, you think you're compatible…
Stuart Heritage on 9 crucial questions



1. It's your birthday, and you hate parties. Your other half…

A. Organises a lovely evening in for you, as per your wishes
B. Organises a party for you anyway, because they're sure you'll enjoy it in the end
C. Organises a party, and makes everyone jump out at you on purpose, to jolt your weak heart

2. Did you vote the same way as your partner in the Brexit referendum?

A. We've never discussed it, but I hope so
B. No, and it almost broke us up
C. Yes, but only because they bullied me into taking their side

3. Your partner has left a pile of stuff at the bottom of the stairs, is it…

A. A sign for you to take at least some of the items upstairs
B. A sign of their chaos
C. A deliberate trap, designed to snap one of your ankles

4. You confess to doing something wrong, but your partner says "it's fine". Does this mean…

A. It is actually fine
B. It is not fine at all, and you'll be hearing more about this shortly
C. You will need to sleep with one eye open for the rest of the week

5. Describe the respective love languages of your partnership

A. Acts of service/receiving gifts
B. Acts of service/words of affirmation
C. Acts of service/trying to suffocate people in their sleep

6. How did you meet your partner?

A. We saw each other at a bar and enjoyed a moment of mutual attraction
B. We met at work; I was a high-flying executive and they were fixing the toilet
C. I felt a tug on my trousers, and realised that they were attempting to steal my wallet

7. Your family is experiencing a great amount of emotional turbulence. How do you cope as a unit?

A. By studiously avoiding all conflict, like normal people
B. By going over it again and again, and again, even though it only makes everything worse
C. With poison

8. How would you describe your partner to a stranger?

A. An introvert, just like me
B. An extrovert, unlike me
C. A psychopath who keeps trying to get me to change my will

9. Do you have a five-year plan?

A. No, neither of us does
B. I do, but my partner does not, which I think is short-sighted
C. Surviving seems like a good place to start

Mostly As

Great news, you are not opposites at all. Whatever the situation, however serious, you can guarantee that you and your partner will sing from the same hymn sheet no matter what. No upsets, no misunderstandings, no surprises. You are perfect for each other, in that you're more like siblings than romantic partners. Anyway, you will have a long, long life together.

Mostly Bs

Well, you're definitely opposites. The bad news is that science suggests you won't last very long in this relationship. The worse news is that everyone has been saying that about you for years, even before the study was published. You clash, you fight, you are perpetually unable to see eye to eye on anything at all. But, hey, maybe that's what you like. If nothing else, at least you are never bored.

Mostly Cs

Opposites exist on a spectrum, of course. Unluckily for you, your partner exists on the end of the spectrum marked "definite murderer". This is less a relationship and more Inspector Clouseau and Cato. Get out while you still can.

How much salt is in your food –

Emily Sargent examines the salt content of our everyday foods from bread to cheese and snacks

Over the past few years we've been inundated with warnings about the health impacts of sugar — now, however, salt is back in the firing line. Figures published last week from a study using UK Biobank data showed that those who never added salt to their meals could reduce their risk of heart problems and strokes by almost 20 per cent.

In one of the biggest pieces of research of its kind, data was analysed from more than 500,000 people aged between 40 and 70 across the UK. Results showed that those who never added salt to their food were 18 per cent less likely to develop atrial fibrillation — a heart condition that can lead to greater risk of stroke — compared with those who always added salt. Those who "sometimes" added salt were still 15 per cent less likely to develop atrial fibrillation than those who always did.

A further study this week published in the journal BMJ Oncology found that diets high in salt, red meat and alcohol have driven a surge in cancer among people under 50 years old. So how do you know if you need to cut back?

Do you need some salt in your diet?

"While it's important to be aware of the potential dangers of having too much salt, it's also worth noting that everyone needs a little bit of salt in their diet to function optimally," says Eli Brecher, a registered nutritionist specialising in gut health. "Salt contains the essential nutrient sodium, which helps with fluid balance, nerve health, muscle function and nutrient absorption."

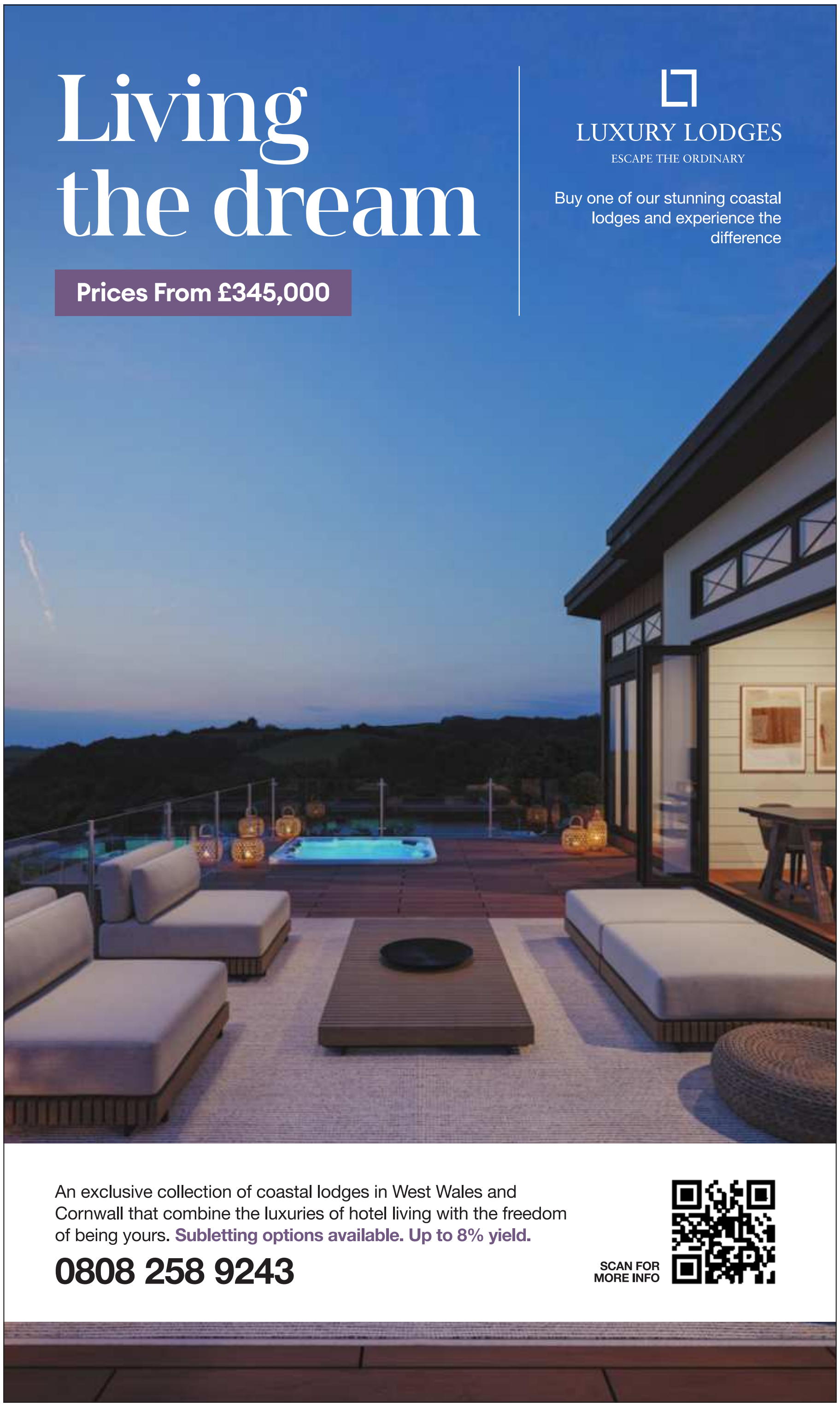
How much salt is too much?

The NHS recommends that adults consume no more than 6g of salt a day, or about one level teaspoon (much less for children aged under 11). Which means that if you've had two slices of toast for breakfast, plus a salad with feta or hummus for lunch, you could already be well over half your daily limit. Many shop-bought sandwiches alone contain more than a third of the daily limit. "Avoid using too many sauces that contain a lot of salt, such as soy sauce, ketchup and mustard," says Brecher, who recommends using herbs and spices to give food flavour instead of salt, such as garlic, chilli, thyme and paprika.

How to decipher food labels

A traffic light labelling system, which was introduced by the government in 2014, can be helpful in giving a sense of how high or low the salt content is in relation to your daily limit. More than 1.5g of salt per 100g is marked red for high; 0.3g-1.5g is amber for medium; and less than 0.3g is green for low.

Manufacturer expectations of portion sizes can be pretty measly compared with the average person's portion size, so it's worth checking this and being realistic about whether you are likely to exceed it. "Be honest with yourself," Brecher says. "If you enjoy a big bowl of cereal, which probably exceeds the recommended serving size, will you reduce your portion, swap to a lower-salt cereal, or perhaps swap to a bowl of porridge?" Once you're in the habit of checking the label, it's easy to see where you can start to make some changes.



MEAT



Parma ham
1.17g per 2 slices



Salami
2g per 5 slices



M&S chicken goujons
2.6g per ½ pack



Tesco smoked back bacon
2.08g per 2 rashers



M&S Our Best Ever beef burger
1g per burger



Waitrose cured oak smoked ham
1.5g per 3 slices

— do you really know?

CHEESE



Mozzarella
0.3g per 50g



Cathedral City extra mature cheddar
0.8g per 50g serving



Feta
1.1g per 50g



Parmesan
0.8g per 50g



Waitrose smoked cheese
1.6g per 50g



High salt

Halloumi
1.3g per 50g

FISH



Smoked salmon
1.53g per 50g



Smoked mackerel
1.57g per fillet



Fishcakes
1.16g per fishcake



Princes tinned tuna in brine
1.3g per can

BREAD



White bread (sliced, supermarket)
0.9g per 2 slices



Wholemeal bread (sliced, supermarket)
0.7g per 2 slices



Clay Oven Bakery garlic and coriander naan
1.9g per naan



Multiseed bagel
0.8g per bagel

SNACKS



Hummus
1g per ½ pot



Tyrrells vegetable crisps
0.7g per 60g



Kettle salt and vinegar crisps
1.6g per 60g



Cauldron falafel
1.3g per 4 falafels



Olives in brine
1.2g per 30g

STORE CUPBOARD



Sacla vegan basil pesto
1.1g per ½ jar



Loyd Grossman tomato and garlic pasta sauce
1.4g per ½ jar



Sriracha hot sauce
1g per 15g/1 tbsp



Sharwood's black bean stir fry sauce
2g per ½ jar



Biona organic tikka masala sauce
2.8g per ½ jar



Heinz baked beans
1.3g per ½ can



Marmite
0.54g per 5g/1 tsp

Zero salt



Meridian peanut butter
0g per 15g/1 tbsp



Président butter with sea salt crystals
0.75g per 30g



Kellogg's cornflakes
0.56g per 50g



Bran flakes
0.3g per 50g

Reformer Pilates: I was catapulted head first onto a concrete floor

The increasingly popular exercise can sometimes prove dangerous, says Peta Bee

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If there is an exercise form associated in equal measure with lean limbs, perfect posture and a glamorous physique, it is reformer Pilates. Performed on a heavy-duty machine with a set of springs, pulleys and levers that looks more like an instrument of torture, it is beloved by celebrities from Adele, Elle Macpherson and Claudia Schiffer to Victoria Beckham, Miranda Kerr and Harry Styles, and reputed to fine-tune the body to perfection. Just using the word Pilates in a dating app profile was shown in one survey of more than 7,000 users to increase your chance of a match by up to 160 per cent.

Such is its appeal that it is rare to find a leafy enclave of the UK without a Pilates studio, and a growing number are dedicated to the reformer, many providing neat rows of the machines for group workouts performed with methodical movements on a "carriage" that slides back and forth along tracks on the equipment's frame. Resistance is provided by the attachment of springs, as well as by the user's bodyweight, with exercises including the use of a jump board attachment to build strength in the legs and glutes. Results are enviable, but it is not cheap. A one-on-one session at some of the most sought-after studios will set you back as much as £130, but you can expect to pay at least £20 for a drop-in class pretty much anywhere. And while most reformers are found in studios, "at-home" machines are becoming a must-have for dedicated fans, costing anything from £700 to more than £5,000.

For many this is a price worth paying. Anyone who has used one will tell you that a reformer session is tough, but low-impact and largely without risk to the joints. It is, after all, a favourite of elite sports people and of physios, many of whom recommend reformer Pilates for injury prevention and rehabilitation.

Yet the safety of this superstar regimen was called into question this week when it was revealed that a 43-year-old musician is suing a celebrity Pilates trainer over claims she suffered a fractured elbow and abdominal injuries when the reformer she was using at a studio in Hampstead, north London, collapsed. Maya Meron, an internationally acclaimed violinist who has played with the London Symphony Orchestra and appeared at the BBC Proms, said that she had undergone surgery and continues to receive treatment following the injury in 2019. Her lawyers told the court that she has "a limited range of movement and still has left elbow and wrist pain" among other issues. The trainer has declined to comment.

A Pilates enthusiast for decades, I have my own cautionary tale to tell about the perils of the reformer. In an advanced group class, I was performing a move that involved placing my hands on the foot bar at the front of the moving machine when it jammed and I was catapulted head first onto a hard concrete floor. Despite the considerable bleeding and pain, I was asked by the instructor — who also has celebrity clients — to sit at the side while the class continued. Granted, my injuries weren't as career-threatening as Meron's but the next day I had mild concussion and a whopping lump on my forehead.

As the reformer's popularity grows so does the risk of injury. One London-based instructor told me that horror stories circulate with alarming frequency within the industry. "We're working with people who are using a moving platform with springs and sometimes have feet hooked in straps, so accidents do happen, but they are more of a risk in overcrowded classes with underqualified teachers," she says. "I recently heard of a first-timer falling off a machine in a studio of 18 reformers, which have video-screen instruction and just a single roaming teacher to keep an eye on everyone." A friend of a colleague was permanently blinded in one eye when a spring flew off during her first class. In Australia, the Pilates Alliance Australasia has called for tighter controls after it received two reports of people breaking bones at reformer Pilates classes.

While Pilates can be practised with no equipment, the reformer, far from being a new fad, was invented by the approach's founder, Joseph Pilates. He used bedsprings to create "apparatus" that he thought would help the ballet dancers and gymnasts flocking to his New York studio in the 1920s to improve muscle control and create lean and lengthy limbs. His promise was that in 10 sessions you would feel better, in 20 you would look better, and after 30 you would have a completely new body.

Neither the reformer nor the methodology has changed much over the years, yet the industry remains largely unregulated, meaning almost anyone can open up a studio and teach classes. Training courses to become a Pilates mat or reformer instructor range from as short as two days to several years of tuition and a minimum 50 hours of supervised teaching.

> "One London instructor told me that horror stories circulate with alarming frequency

Some progress has been made with the formation in 2020 of the Society for the Pilates Method (SPM), which aims to introduce UK industry standards for Pilates mat work and studio equipment teacher training courses. Its guidelines, independently overseen by a quality assurance agency, have already been adopted by many — but not all — of the main Pilates institutes, meaning that if an instructor has trained with them there is some guarantee of recognised qualifications and experience. Others have their own reputable teaching schools.

If you are new to the practice, try a one-on-one session or a foundation class to familiarise yourself with the equipment. "It can be a bit daunting when you first get on a reformer as there are lots of settings and adjustments to contend with," says Jacek Bilinski, founder of Level Out in south London. "You want a class that will take you through all of that and offer entry-level exercises."

Checking qualifications is worthwhile too. "You should still do a bit of digging about an instructor," says Lynne Robinson, founder of Body Control Pilates in the UK. "Aim for a class with no more than 6-8 machines so that the instructor can keep an eye on you."

"Reformer Pilates is a delicate, precision art form and if you do it wrongly you can pull a muscle or worse," Bilinski adds. "But if you get a good teacher and do it regularly it can transform your body."

Before you book a class

- Check an instructor has at least a level-3 PT qualification and has trained on an SPM-approved course or with a recognised organisation.
- Start with mat-based Pilates before using a reformer — it will build your strength and get you accustomed to the exercise terminology used in classes.
- Look for a group class with a maximum of eight participants for every instructor. Avoid those instructed by video screens.
- Take a one-on-one session or a foundation class to familiarise yourself with the reformer before joining a more advanced group class.
- If you are taking up reformer to treat a specific injury, consider booking a session with a physiotherapist registered with the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (csp.org.uk).

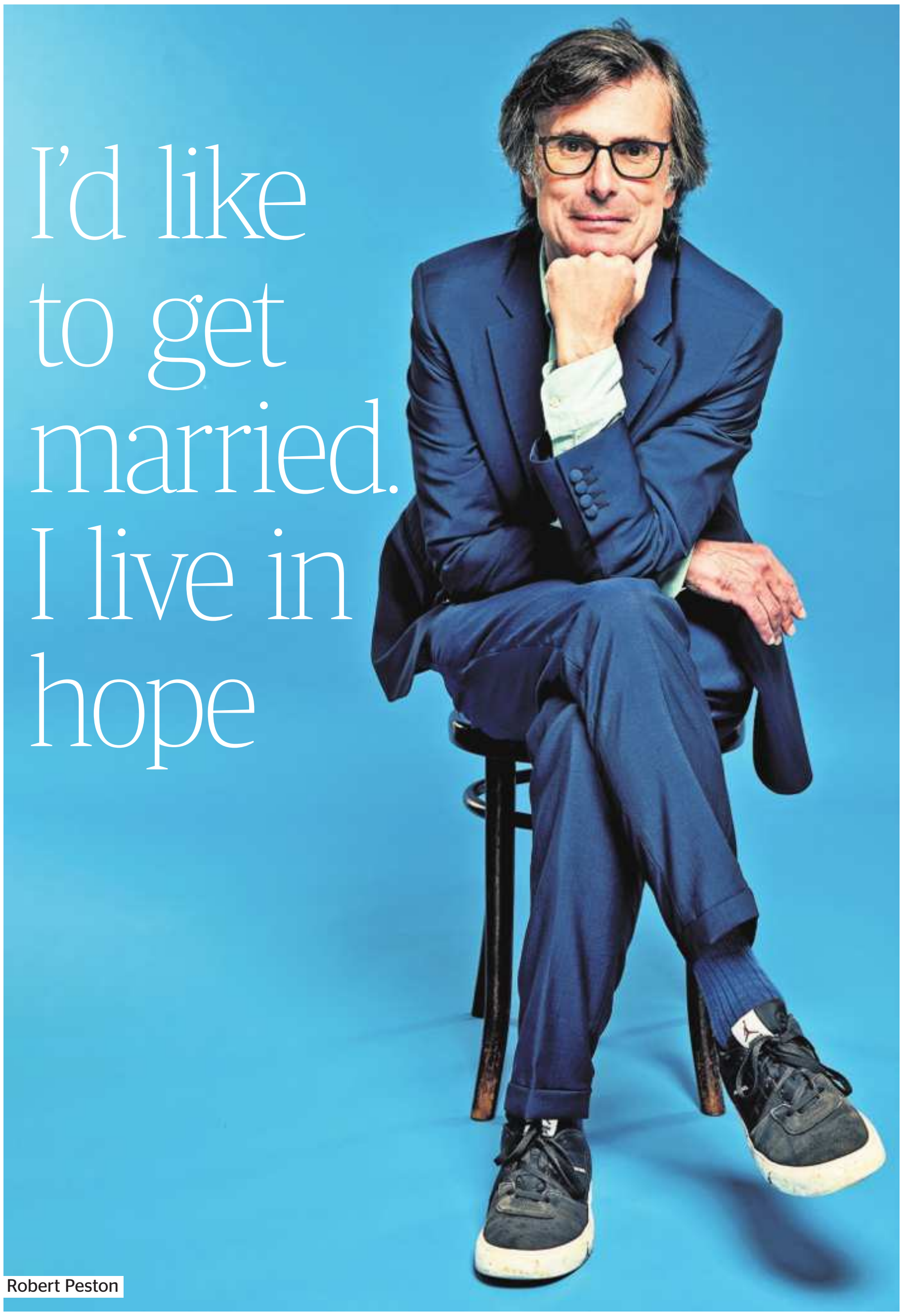


Peta Bee

I'd like to get married. I live in hope

Broadcaster Robert Peston talks to Andrew Billen about love, parenthood and upsetting powerful people

CHRIS MCANDREW FOR THE TIMES



Robert Peston

ITV's political editor enjoys talking to the prime minister. Their political leanings are probably a mirror image of each other's, but Rishi Sunak and Robert Peston share a background in economics, Sunak from his days in hedge funds, Peston from his at the Financial Times and as the business and then economics editor of the BBC. On a recent trip to a summit in San Diego, Sunak made his way to the back of the plane and the two reminisced, in the light of recent American bank failures, about the great banking crash of 2007.

"It was slightly nostalgic," Peston, 63, says over a light lunch at a marbled hotel in Whitehall. "Banks were going bust 15 years on from the crash. This is not to denigrate his predecessors, but on that kind of thing Sunak has a depth of knowledge, frankly, that is way greater than Truss or Johnson could possibly have."

If by any chance you too are oddly nostalgic for 2007, then Peston's new novel, *The Crash*, is for you. It is set in the centre of the nightmare — although it will also suit anyone who is up for a clever thriller that incidentally delivers a crash course on crashes.

Beginning with the collapse of the Northern Rock bank, Peston broke story after story for the BBC during the meltdown and became famous. A Commons Treasury committee report described Peston's "highly characteristic delivery" as the "soundtrack for the crisis".

Was it fun, or was it, as for his book's hero, the fictional BBC business editor Gil Peck, just stressful? "I was living on adrenaline. It was literally the most relentless, remorseless period of my career," he says. "I became sort of the marketplace for information on this stuff."

The City was furious. "The director-general of the BBC was rung up by the head of the British Bankers' Association, various MPs, various regulators and they sort of said, 'Shut Peston up.' They basically tried to make the argument that this was the financial equivalent of a time of war, and that therefore the BBC should not be telling people what was going on." Happily, the director-general Mark Thompson and Helen Bowden, his head of news, "showed a lot of backbone" and resisted.

In the book Peck is abused in the street. Was he? "On a couple of occasions. There was some bloke I bumped into who was absolutely vile. He shouted and screamed at me, but I think the trickiest situation was when I gave a talk at a conference of financial people, people to do with the housing market, and my God they were angry with me!"

The Crash is the successor to Peston's 2021 debut thriller, *The Whistleblower*, which also starred Peck. That one sold more than 100,000 copies, but I wonder whether he sent one to Tony Blair. "No, I didn't. I can't imagine why you would ask that question!"

I ask because Johnny Todd, the novel's New Labour prime minister, is a villain, "the living embodiment of self-righteous do-gooding and ruthless money-making". That, he insists, is not his view of Blair. So why create Todd? "Because it's a thriller and you've got to have some baddies in it."

Peston's attitude to Blair is nuanced. He admires the research done by his institute for being "significantly better than anything the civil service is producing at the moment". On the other hand, he thinks the Iraq war was a "terrible mistake".

So Todd, as venal as ever in *The Crash*, is not Blair. But is Peck Peston? His driven, angsty protagonist certainly reads like his twin. Peston admits that as a younger reporter he was as obsessed with scoops as Peck. "It was a drug, that adrenaline hit of getting a story before anybody else, knowing that other news desks were giving bollockings to reporters who missed the story. All of that is a childish pleasure."

So, at ITV, did he mind that it was Paul Brand who broke partygate? He says not. "I just want my side to score."

His loyalty was demonstrated the night this summer it was revealed that the BBC presenter facing allegations about his private life was Huw Edwards (he features briefly in *The Crash*). He began his *Peston* show with a supportive statement in which he questioned whether, given the Met Police had found no evidence of criminality, the story was in the public interest or just interesting to the public.

His concern was personal; not only was Edwards a friend, but his wife, Vicky Flind, is Peston's executive editor. Peston referred to her as "the nicest, kindest and most decent woman".

"I sort of have a view in life that you support your friends. It's no more complicated than that, frankly," he says.

Are they doing all right? "I think it's very tough. The honest truth is they know that I'm here to support them."

As for other traits shared by Peck and Peston: they both enjoy food (Peck gets "almost sexual pleasure" from eating turbot), exercise (cycling in the case of the author, who has brought his Brompton to lunch) and dogs (Peston's is a Bedlington whippet cross named Merlin). Both men suffer from obsessive compulsive disorder. So does Peston too, in moments of stress, chant to himself, "kill me now, kill me now"?

"I won't tell you what my mantras are because I'm superstitious, but because I am OCD, I do have some mantras. They are sort of spells that I learnt. It's a sort of weird self-cure thing."

Has he ever tried cognitive therapy?

"You know, I definitely was both OCD and ADHD as a kid. In those days, as you know, adults just thought, 'Oh, he's a bit strange.' These were not diagnosed problems, right? Basically, my school reports would say things like, 'He fidgets too much in class. He keeps falling off the back of his chair.' It was just sort of 'he's eccentric' kind of thing. So it was only much later in life when I became aware that these were recognised psychological conditions. So no, I've never had treatment for any of these things, I just acquired techniques for managing it."

One is compartmentalisation, focusing on one thing at a time, which he admits drives his partner, the journalist Charlotte Edwardes, "up the wall".

He has shared his home in north London with her since 2018, after the death of his wife, the writer Siân Busby, from lung cancer in 2012. He has a son, 26, by Busby and a stepson from Busby's previous marriage, who is 12 years older. Edwardes has three children. He says only they can judge what kind of father he makes. "Look, I love them all. I do my best to be supportive and generous and kind and all that stuff." He is certainly much more tactile than his own father, the economist Maurice Peston, whom he cannot recall ever kissing. "I loved my father deeply and miss him very much," he says, "but he was the least tactile person, pretty much, I've ever encountered."

Will Edwardes and he marry? "I'd like to, and I live in hope, but I feel very lucky to be with Charlotte. That seems to me to be the important thing."

When they finish *The Crash*, readers will surely be left wondering more than anything whether Peston is as left-wing as his protagonist. He denies it. "He's not me but you've got to try and give a sense of drive and motivation to your characters. I was a bit different from Gil but certainly, when I started in journalism, I got a thrill out of upsetting powerful people, knowing that pompous chairmen or pompous ministers were going to be spluttering into their cornflakes when reading my stuff." But he has never been someone who believes every public service must be in public ownership.

So when he describes the Davos World Economic Forum, which meets every January in the Swiss Alps ostensibly to assess the planet's economic health, as "a magnificent charade, a cover for hole-and-corner money-making deals" that is not his view?

"Oh, that's all true. That's not an exaggeration," Peston says, and bursts into laughter.

***The Crash* by Robert Peston (Zaffre, £16.99). To order a copy go to timesbookshop.co.uk or call 020 3176 2935. Free UK standard P&P on online orders over £25. Special discount available for Times+ members**

> "It was a drug, that adrenaline hit of getting a story before anybody else

Robert Peston's perfect weekend

Lark or owl?
I'd like to be a lark but I'm probably an owl
Novel or Netflix?
I prefer a novel but I'm reading Alice Miller's *The Drama of the Gifted Child*, which is brilliant but not a novel
Gym or country walk?
Country walk
Green juice or IPA?
I guess probably green juice but I do love an IPA
Tiger parent or free-range dad?
I guess it's free-range dad. I feel bad about that
Signature dish?
A chilli-infused stir-fry
I couldn't get through the weekend without …
Very good coffee. An oat milk flat white, which I make at home

I'm nervous about post-divorce sex

Dr Suzi Godson
Sex counsel

Q How do I approach sex with a new partner after 30 years of marriage? I've been amicably divorced for 18 months and have now met a woman my age (mid-fifties) who I'm really attracted to, but I've been putting off going to bed with her. I don't want her to worry I'm not keen, but it feels a bit like the prospect of losing my virginity again.

A It won't be your first time having sex, but it will be your first time having sex with your new partner, so it is fair enough to feel a little bit apprehensive. Of course you want to make a good impression, but remember, she is in her fifties, not her twenties. Unless she is what statisticians call an "outlier", chances are she hasn't had much sex recently either. Older women have fewer sexual partners than older men. There are a number of reasons for this. It's partly because women live longer, partly because most older men are married, and partly because what single men there are prefer dating younger women.

I wouldn't assume that your new partner is desperate to have sex. Her feelings may well be similar to yours. She is probably checking you out just as much as you are checking her out, so take your time and don't rush things. When the time feels right to have sex, bravado is pointless. The thing she will appreciate most is honesty. It's much better to admit that you are apprehensive, that it has been a while, and that you are not 100 per cent confident about how to please a woman in bed any more. If you can make her laugh while you bare your soul, so much the better.

Don't expect things to go smoothly. When you have been with the same person for years, having sex with a new partner can feel really strange at first. Everything about them is different; their body, their smell, their preferences, their technique. It takes time to get used to the way sex feels with them, so don't put unnecessary pressure on yourself, or on her. Orgasm is a "nice to have", but in a new relationship women don't expect, or need, to climax to enjoy sex. Kissing, touching, skin-to-skin contact and pillow talk provide just as much pleasure. It might take a little time for you to get into each other's grooves, but practice makes perfect and there is a wealth of research to show that when it comes to sex, familiarity increases the likelihood of both partners achieving orgasm.

Establish good communication habits from the start. If you can encourage openness, neither of you will feel the need to hide anything, and that will stand you in good stead later. Be frank. Ask her what she enjoys when you make love. Get to know her as well as you can sexually. In midlife, lots of women need more stimulation to reach orgasm because menopause-related hormone changes can reduce arousal and make climax less easy to reach. Being able to relax is fundamental to female sexual pleasure so if she, like you, feels very apprehensive, she may not lubricate easily. Fortunately that is a very easy problem to solve. A decent silicone lubricant enhances sex for men and women at any age.

One word of advice, though. Don't suddenly produce an old tube of K-Y Jelly from the bedside table. Bringing old sex props into a new relationship is a complete no-no. Box-fresh only.

Send your questions to weekendsex@thetimes.co.uk

> "When you have been with the same person for years, having sex with a new one can feel really strange at first



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Are you phubbing your children?

Many of us are snubbing our kids for our phones. Maria Lally on the damage it's doing


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Glued to their phones, scrolling social media from the minute they leave the school gates, responding to their family's questions with a half-hearted shrug… did I mention we're talking about parents here?

As children get back to school after the holidays, you might be fretting over their screen time habits, and how it affects everything from their emotional health to their homework. But one campaigner on tech ethics says they are not the only ones who need limits on their phone use.

"Much was recently made about the rise of 'phubbing' — snubbing your partner for your phone," says Tanya Goodin, a digital detox expert who has been an adviser to schools for over ten years. Having studied 712 married people with an average age of 37, academics from the Nigde Omer Halisdemir University in Turkey concluded that "when individuals perceive that their romantic partners are phubbing more frequently, they feel more conflict and less intimacy in the relationship".

"Phubbing is also the single biggest thing children complain to me about when I talk to them in schools," says Goodin, the author of three books on our tangled relationship with technology including *My Brain Has Too Many Tabs Open*. "They can't get their parents' attention because they're always on their phone."

Any parent with young children will wince when they read that last line. (My daughters are 10 and 13, and I winced when I wrote it.) I catch up on the news and emails on my phone while making them breakfast, I sometimes peek at Instagram during a family movie, and I often find myself engrossed in a funny WhatsApp group chat with friends when my daughters are trying to tell me something.

I know I'm not alone. One survey found that on average parents of children aged 8 to 18 consume screen media for more than nine hours a day. Researchers at Boston University School of Medicine observed that when parents were distracted by a device at dinner, they had 20 per cent less conversation with their child and 39 per cent fewer non-verbal interactions. Another study from Illinois State University, found that parental distraction due to technology was also linked with more negative child reactions (such as poor behaviour). Meanwhile, research published in the Journal of Adolescence found that parental phubbing was associated with depression in teenage years. "Studies show those who grow up with heavy drinkers or smokers are more likely to drink or smoke themselves, while those who see their parents exercising are more likely to grow up and take part in sports," Goodin says. "It's no stretch to predict that in ten years' time we'll have a generation of children as addicted to their phones as their parents are." Here's how to keep your family's screen use in check.

Good screen habits start when they're babies

"Something I've noticed in the last few years is solo parents with prams in coffee shops and, rather than chatting to their child or pointing things out, they're looking at their phone," Goodin says. "Parenting is difficult enough without piling on more guilt, but that is something we need to stop and think about."

Researchers from the University of Cambridge found that when mothers and babies look at each other it can synchronise their brainwave patterns, which helps bonding and language development.

"Babies need their parents to look at them and talk to them — that's how the skills of talking and listening develop," Goodin says. "If you phub your older child they'll call you out on it, while a baby or toddler can't. But babies are closely attuned to their parents' attention and research shows that making eye contact signals that you're interested in them and they'll make greater attempts to communicate back. Babies who are talked to throughout the day have stronger verbal abilities as they grow, so even if your child is too young to answer you, engaging with them boosts their development."

Keep your phone in your pocket at the school gates

Teachers have been staging a fightback for a few years. In 2017 one primary school head in Middlesbrough put up a sign at the gates asking parents to put down their phones at pick-up, reading: "Greet your child with a smile, not a mobile." In 2019 another head teacher in Leigh, near Wigan, made her primary school playground a mobile-free zone because her staff were saddened to see pupils being ignored at pick-up by parents engrossed in their phones. "Please take a moment to listen and talk to your child," she wrote on the school's Facebook page. "The power of talk has a huge impact on our children's language development [and] mental health."

> "Babies are closely attuned to their parents' attention and need to make eye contact

"When you're engrossed in your phone when you're with your child, you're saying, 'You're not enough for me, you're not interesting enough,'" Goodin says. "You may not think that [is what's happening], but this is what your child hears." School pick-up can be the best chance to have a debrief about their day and any concerns they may have, so she suggests a no-screens rule for everybody until you get home.

Treat your phone like a glass of wine

One friend with a four-year-old and a six-year-old says her worst phubbing happens at bedtime. "I read a lovely story to my children, we have cuddles and bedtime chats, and then I sit with them while they fall asleep. But I flick through my phone while I'm waiting, and if they don't drift off and start asking questions instead I'm far less responsive and loving because I get irritated by the interruption."

No matter how much we love our children, mobiles are designed to pull us in, Goodin says. "One thing I tell parents is to think of their phone as a glass of wine. Consciously put it away while you're doing bath and story time and then, when your child is settled, take it out. Just as you wouldn't have a large sauvignon in hand during story time, don't have your phone on hand either."

Engage in activities that require two hands

Banning screens outright is unrealistic and can backfire. "When we ban ourselves or our children from smartphones, it gives value to them, so they become this totemic object," Goodin says. "We need to devalue our smartphones and learn when we need to put them back in their box, both figuratively and literally."

Whether it's gardening, doing a jigsaw, baking cakes or making pizza, she advises parents to direct their children (and themselves) towards something that requires two hands — and a bit of concentration — instead. "This works especially well with older children," she says.

Create family rules that you have to follow too

"The biggest thing to remember is that you are their digital role model," Goodin says. "By always being on our phones we're teaching very young children that phones are enthralling. As children get older, screen-addicted parents then begin to put screen times in place for their children, which is confusing for them."

Model the phone behaviour you'd like to see in your child. "Create family rules that you have to follow too, like no phones at the table, while watching TV, or in bedrooms overnight," Goodin says.

Reply to work emails on your laptop

According to Goodin, the number one excuse parents give her for phubbing their child is work. "But kids aren't fooled by that," she says. "It isn't always work, and we all know it. I had one boy tell me his father claimed to be checking work emails when he could see he was looking at BBC Sport."

Hybrid working has made things trickier because the working day often bleeds into family time. Goodin's solution is this: "Get your laptop out and reply to work emails, or do work, on that. I never hear people tell me their laptops are addictive."

Six new ways to cook with tahini (not just hummus)

Hannah Evans on how top chefs are using the sesame paste — from baked puddings to salad dressings





Do you know what to do with tahini — and I mean beyond whipping it up into hummus?

The British middle classes are experts at creating Middle Eastern-inspired dishes — thank you, Ottolenghi. Yet for a long time the wonders of tahini, the smooth paste made from ground roast sesame seeds that sits somewhere between a sauce and a condiment, remained a little underappreciated. That's all changed now though. These days the nation can't get enough of it. It's been baked in cakes by contestants on *The Great British Bake Off* and is sold in supermarkets from Sainsbury's to Asda, with Waitrose recently reporting that sales of its own-label tahini are rising at speed.

I will admit to being a bit of a tahini junkie myself. I drizzle it over salad, use it to thicken sauces, freeze it in ice cream, bake it into brownies and spread it on sandwiches like mayonnaise with a squeeze of lemon juice. Not many ingredients can do it all, but tahini comes close. Perhaps that's what makes it a bit overwhelming — the possibilities feel endless.

"There is nothing quite like it," says Itamar Srulovich, co-owner of the Middle Eastern restaurant group Honey & Co. "It's a great staple because it's what I call an 'instant delicious'. I always think that if you have tahini in the house you have a meal. It's what can bring together a bunch of ingredients and turn it into a dish."

> "If you've got tahini in the house you can turn a bunch of ingredients into a delicious dish

Alexina Anatole, whose debut book, *Bitter*, has a chapter of tahini recipes, agrees. "It's a very special ingredient because it does lots of things. It's got a smooth bitterness and the kind of heftiness to it means it can bulk up sauces. It's complex."

An easy way to use tahini is to treat it like a thickener, Srulovich says. "For example, if you are making a stew then you can add a couple of drops of tahini to the liquid, like you would if you were adding cream, and it will bring it all together. My favourite midweek meal is to fry an onion with some cumin seeds. I add a tin of chickpeas with its juices and a few drops of tahini. Then I serve it with a poached egg."

When you're buying tahini there are two things to look for. "There should be just one ingredient: 100 per cent sesame seeds," Srulovich says. "Salt is fine, but there should be no emulsifiers or peanuts added." The second is the origin. There are two kinds of tahini: Cypriot and Greek tahini, or Middle Eastern tahini. "I'd say the Middle Eastern varieties have a much cleaner, purer bitterness," he continues.

Tahini loves lemons, but one common problem when you first add liquid is that tahini "seizes up" and becomes stiff. "The first thing to do is not to panic. Keep adding more lemon juice, whisking it in. Eventually it will loosen up when enough liquid has been added. Once you've got the desired acidity from the lemon juice, switch to using ice-cold water," Anatole says.

Every cook from Nigella, who makes a stellar tahini banana bread, to the Palestinian chef Sami Tamimi, whose recipe for a delicious tahini caramel I know off by heart, uses tahini in desserts. "It adds a nutty richness to baking. It's subtle, almost touching on bitterness, but not quite, which is what makes it so moreish," Srulovich explains. Its creamy consistency makes it a great substitute for butter in vegan and dairy-free creations.

Whether you drizzle, spread or bake, here are six new things to do with tahini.

Make a salad dressing

"A tahini dressing is the perfect fit for a grain-based salad," Tamimi says. It can be drizzled over vegetables and meat too. To make a jar of dressing, mix 150g tahini with 2 tablespoons of lemon juice, 1 crushed



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Easy tahini ice cream

garlic clove, ¼ teaspoon of salt and 120ml water. If it's too runny, add a bit more tahini. If it's too thick, add more lemon juice.

Whip up tahini caramel

Try Tamimi's tahini caramel, which he pours over his sticky date puddings. "It's my interpretation of sticky toffee pudding," he says. Pour 2½ tablespoons of tahini and 4 tablespoons of water into a small bowl. Whisk until smooth and place to one side. Put a medium saucepan on a medium-high heat and, once hot, add 50g sugar. It will begin to melt as it hits the pan. Give it a stir once or twice, and once the sugar has completely melted add another 50g sugar. Continue this way for 3-4 min until you have added 150g sugar in total and it has all turned into an amber-coloured caramel. Remove from the heat, add 120ml double cream and 3 tablespoons of unsalted butter and slowly stir in; the sauce will splutter but this is normal. Return the pan to a medium-low heat, whisking to smooth out any lumps. Then add the tahini mix along with a generous pinch of sea salt flakes. Whisk until smooth.

Try this fish sauce

"Tahini is the base for lots of sauces in my cooking," Tamimi says. "Preparing fish with dairy products isn't very common [in the Middle East], so that's why tahini steps in, taking the place of butter or cream."

To make his sauce, add 150g tahini, 2 crushed garlic cloves and 2 tablespoons of lemon juice to a bowl with 60ml water and ½ teaspoon of salt. Mix well until you have the consistency of cream and set aside. Marinate six white fish fillets for 10 min in the juice and zest of two lemons, 1½ teaspoons of ground cumin, 40ml olive oil and a generous grind of black pepper and salt. Dust each in plain flour and fry each side until golden. Transfer to a baking dish, pour the tahini mix over with some thinly sliced chillies and pine nuts, and roast at 180C/gas 4 for 8 min. Sprinkle with parsley.

Bake a tahini chocolate pudding

Tahini and chocolate go together like strawberries and cream, or pineapple and coconut — you get the picture. For her chocolate and tahini pudding Alison Roman combines 285g dark chocolate with 180g tahini and a pinch of salt. Heat 250ml double cream and 90g honey in a small pan over a medium heat. Once it starts to simmer, remove it from the heat — don't let it boil. Pour it over the chocolate and tahini and let it sit for a few minutes while the chocolate melts. Use a spatula to mix. It should be thick and glossy. Immediately pour into a large shop-bought tart crust and smooth the top. Sprinkle with flaky sea salt. Cool before serving.

Have tahini on toast

For a simple, satisfying breakfast spread a thin layer of tahini on toast, drizzle with honey and dust with cinnamon. "It's a perfect example of how you can use tahini much in the same way that you can use peanut butter," Anatole says. "They have different flavour profiles, but often I think they are interchangeable: they both work in savoury and sweet contexts but they also add fat, texture and nuttiness."

Freeze it into ice cream

"One of our most popular summer desserts in the restaurant is our tahini parfait," Srulovich says. "It's so easy to make — it's essentially tahini whipped with cream and sugar until it's really fluffy. Then it's frozen. It comes out as the smoothest ice cream. Nutty, sweet, almost savoury. Delicious drizzled with date syrup." Anatole serves her tahini ice cream with caramelised bananas and walnuts.



The best natural wines to buy now Jane MacQuitty

Love or loathe it — cloudy, funky natural wine is here to stay, popping up everywhere from hip, natural wine-only bars to traditional merchants. Yet while millennials and Gen Z drinkers lap up its quirky scents and flavours, some of us are more circumspect.

The hefty tannins, high acidity and unusual, multi-layered textural quality make them handy big food bottles — perfect to serve with spicy Asian dishes, or those Ottolenghi recipes that need a full-bodied wine. I've heard people complain that they taste like sour apple cider vinegar and don't smell too good either. In my experience, for every good bottle I've drunk there have been a dozen that are oxidised, yeasty or just plain dull.

Natural wine comes from small-scale growers who farm their own vineyards organically or biodynamically and harvest by hand. The same sustainable, low-intervention shtick takes place in the cellar using indigenous yeast present on the grape skins for fermentation and no additives or enzymes. New-oak ageing is out, ditto fining and filtering, hence cloudy wines. Producers also opt for half, or none, of the standard dose of sulphur, the wine trade's essential preservative — good news for sulphur-sensitive drinkers but, in less-skilled hands, it's responsible for those feral flavours that discerning drinkers abhor.

> "The hefty tannins and high acidity make them handy big food wines

Most supermarket buyers won't list these slow-selling, high-priced bottles. The cheapest I've found, and loved every vintage of, is Romania's tannic, dried apricot and quince-laden 2022 Orange Natural Wine (£10.99, adnams.co.uk). Another old friend is Austria's 2021 Meinklang Grüner Veltliner, just 11 per cent alcohol and a refreshing, elegant, zippy, pear skin-fruited gem (£15.25, vintageroots.co.uk). Les Caves de Pyrene has the longest list of natural wines in the country and its 2021 Savennières-Roche aux Moines from the Domaine aux Moines is a lovely, zingy, hay and citrus-scented white, from the Loire, yours for a pricey £44.23 (lescaves.co.uk). If it's red you want, plump for the two red star buys, or scoop up Churton's Natural State 2022 Pinot Noir, from New Zealand's Marlborough region (£21.50, tanners-wines.co.uk), bursting with sparky, tannic red plum fruit. Served with spicy curries and the like, you won't notice its oddball style and slight fizz.

Great natural wines



2021 The Society Exhibition Soave Classico, Italy ***12.5 per cent, thewinesociety.com, £14.50*** Delicious, nutty, lemon twist of a greeny-gold soave made specially for the Wine Society.



2022 Le Moulin Vendanges Manuelles Romany, Beaujolais, France ***13 per cent, vintageroots.co.uk, £17.50*** Jolly, juicy beaujolais with vibrant red and black summer berry charm.



2021 Natural State Field Blend Sauvignon Blanc, New Zealand ***13.5 per cent, tanners-wines.co.uk, £18.50*** Overflowing with spicy, floral orchard fruit, with a dab of viognier and petit manseng.



2021 Commune of Buttons Pinot Noir, Australia ***12 per cent, lescaves.co.uk, £29.73*** Spot-on, mature, savoury single-vineyard pinot noir from South Australia's cooler Adelaide Hills.

This week's supermarket star buys



2022 Le Sauvignon Blanc de Balthazar, France ***12.5 per cent, Waitrose, £6, down from £8.99*** A racy, verdant, herbaceous Languedoc-Roussillon old friend.



2021 Finest Montepulciano d'Abruzzo, Italy ***13.5 per cent, Tesco, £7.75*** Brightly fruited, juicy, red cherry-stashed, hand-harvested '21 from the Abruzzo coast.



2022 Villa Blanche, Terret Blanc, France ***12.5 per cent, Waitrose, £7.99, down from £9.99*** Crisp, spicy, citrus peel-styled terret blanc — a star turn in Calmel & Joseph's run of ancient grapes.



2022 Taste the Difference Discovery Collection Fronton, France ***13 per cent, Sainsbury's, £9*** An unusual, violet-spiced, négrette-based Fronton from southwest France.





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Outside

The best shrubs for fabulous autumn berries



From classic red to metallic blue — Joe Swift picks his favourites for vibrant colour and gives expert growing tips

Mixed perennials and ornamental grasses have been extremely popular in gardening for many years now. They grow fast and many will still be delivering at this time of year, taking the garden nicely from late summer into autumn. Have shrubs taken a bit of a back seat as a result? I think they have, regarded by some as a little stodgy and a few (like the ubiquitous evergreen *Photinia* 'Red Robin') conjuring up images of low-maintenance gardens or worse — supermarket car parks.

Along with trees and hedges, however, they are essential for most gardens, forming the important framework and structure to a scheme. Many flower or fruit, provide fabulous autumn colour, and have interesting bark or stems through the winter, so they certainly earn their spot. I have increased the percentage of shrubs I plant in my designs over recent years; their woody, characterful frames and year-round height and volume generate a sense of maturity that perennials simply can't offer. I love pruning shrubs too, shaping and thinning to introduce strong forms and character into a garden over time.

> “Shrubs are essential for most gardens, forming the important framework

With some shrubs at this time of year, their fruit can be a wonderful asset; not only a visual element in the garden but providing a feast for the birds too.



Rosa moyesii 'Geranium' provides a colourful backdrop

Joe's top 10

Cotoneaster 'Cornubia'

All cotoneasters make excellent plants for wildlife, bringing in bees for their nectar and birds for their berries. C. *dammeri* is low spreading (ideal for softening low walls or edges of steps) whereas C. *horizontalis* will go the other way, fanning up a wall. If you want something more substantial, C. 'Cornubia' is a much larger plant and can be grown as a wall shrub or free-standing small tree, dripping with cheery bright red berries in autumn. *Height 6m x spread 4m*

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‘A stony track shadowed the northern shore through thickets of foxgloves’

Christopher Somerville’s good walk



Callicarpa bodinieri var. giraldii



Cotoneaster cornubia



Hippophae rhamnoides ‘Leikora’



Daphniphyllum macropodum

Callicarpa bodinieri var. giraldii ‘Profusion’ (beautyberry)

A very showy plant for autumn. Bright clusters of violet purple berries that persist well into winter. It forms a useful bushy deciduous shrub that will grow in sun or dappled shade and has small pink flowers mid-summer and fabulous orange-purple autumn foliage too.
Height 3m x spread 2m

Rosa moyesii ‘Geranium’ (shrub rose)

Most roses carry hips, and some are more interesting hips than others. This is a tall, vigorous shrub rose with bright geranium red flowers and distinctive yellow stamens. It matures into a graceful arching shape and in autumn is covered with unmissable long orange-red hips that persist well into the winter after the foliage has dropped.
Height 2.4m x spread 2m

Clerodendrum trichotomum var. fargesii (glorybower)

A Chinese shrub that develops into a small tree. Deliciously scented, white, star-shaped flowers in late summer followed by the most exquisite deep metallic blue seeds that are strikingly housed in star-shaped turquoise calyces. Likes a sheltered spot.
Height 5m x spread 5m



Clerodendrum trichotomum var. fargesii

Euonymus europaeus ‘Red Cascade’ (spindle tree)

A choice deciduous shrub with fabulous red autumn foliage and then the most wonderful fruit, which combines small tangerine-orange berries surrounded by pink winged capsules.
Height 3m x 2.5m

Daphniphyllum macropodum

This is a rather exotic-looking shrub or small tree with large, semi-drooping leaves, which combine well with the upright new growth on distinct red leaf stalks. It produces white flowers in spring and heavily bloomed blue-black fruit in autumn. Prefers a humus-rich soil and a shady spot out of drying winds, so perfect for an urban oasis.
Height 5m x spread 5m

Hippophae rhamnoides ‘Leikora’ (sea buckthorn)

An extremely tough plant ideal for exposed windy conditions and tricky sandy soils. Narrow, silvery, deciduous leaves, resembling an olive tree from a distance. The female plants (‘Leikora’ is female) carry striking rounded orange fruits along the stem if pollinated by a male (hopefully there’s one nearby — if there isn’t, you could plant one). Can also be grown as an informal hedge; plant one male to five females for maximum berrying.
Height approx 6m x 6m

Viburnum opulus (guelder rose)

A native shrub with snowball-like flowers in spring, and fabulous autumn colour alongside plenty of translucent red berries, which are especially popular with bullfinches and mistle thrushes.
Height approx 5m x spread 4m

Pyracantha ‘Saphyr Orange’ (firethorn)

Often viewed as an unexciting (and spiky, so burglar-deterring) garden plant, but they will hold their stunning berries right into the deepest winter months. Grow informally as an evergreen shrub or train them onto fences. They have red, yellow, or orange berries (and this one’s orange of course!).
Height 3m x spread 3m

Cornus capitata

This Chinese dogwood is a large shrub with showy white bracts in spring and large, strawberry-like fruit in the autumn. It does need a sheltered spot away from cold winds and is quite slow growing, but it’s an exquisite tree for a protected garden and birds devour the fleshy fruit.
Height 8m x spread 6m

Weeder’s digest

Don’t forget about your lilies now they have finished flowering, because the scarlet lily beetles won’t forget. It’s worth making that occasional mid-morning round to spot them on the leaves. Before you grab them, put your other hand underneath, so if they try to do their kamikaze dive to earth you can catch them en route.

Blue Geranium ‘Rozanne’ is sterile and inclined to flower for ever, spreading its arms wide though not its roots, which is what makes it so popular. But at this time of year ‘Rozanne’ and many another hardy geranium may quietly have rolled over the top of neighbouring plants without you noticing. Check it out and chop it back.

Heathers might seem a little old-fashioned, but they remain amazingly popular. Now’s a great time to plant, in light or sandy soils — preferably acidic though. *Erica carnea* and x *darleyensis* will thrive in limey soil so long as it is open-textured. Always set them just a couple of centimetres deeper than they were in the pot, to encourage surface rooting that will better anchor the plants.

Are you potting spring bulbs yet? Narcissi, hyacinths and crocuses can go in now. Tulips can wait until November. Crocuses and tulips — and I have found even *Chionodoxa* — must all be kept mouse-proof. The compost needs to be moist to encourage rooting, so standing in the rain won’t do. Equally, under cover, compost in clay pots can become so dry over the winter that rooting effectively ceases. Test it with a finger pushed in deep every few weeks. A good soak every six weeks is better than constant dribbles. SA

It's time to plant a new hedge

Choose from one of these beauties and start planning, says Stephen Anderton

CHARLES HAWES/GAP PHOTOS; ALAMY


Rosa rugosa

As autumn arrives you might be thinking of planting a hedge — it's the best time of year to do it. You may think a deciduous one would look less dark and oppressive in winter. But what would be the best species? Beech and hornbeam are lovely in the autumn; thorn is a haven for wildlife. They all have pros and cons and one will be right for you.

Beech *(Fagus sylvatica)*

Pros
Beech is my favourite and is good for formal and informal use. Its emerging foliage is delicate yet can handle the wind and it tolerates considerable shade. Its leaves turn copper and are held through the winter until pushed off by emerging foliage in spring, so it offers privacy and protection from the wind. Purple beech is an option in sun only.

Cons
Vigorous: does not like to be kept under 2m and is happier at 2.5-3m. On moist soils it grows fast with two spurts a year. Hungry roots will dry out surrounding areas. Vulnerable to fluffy white beech aphids.


Beech hedge

Hornbeam *(Carpinus betulus)*

Pros
Good for formal and informal shapes. Happier than beech on heavy or clay soil. Its sandy-coloured foliage is held into the winter but sheds well before new leaves emerge. Great for nesting birds.

Cons
Gives shelter but not visual protection in early spring after the leaves have dropped, though that can be attractive in internal hedges where more delicate screening is required. May harbour aphids in summer. Fast growing in two spurts per year. Less characterful than beech.

Thorn *(Crataegus monogyna)*

Pros
When it's well managed and dense to the ground, a thorn hedge is people and animal proof. Once it's established and the growth has steadied it will flower and produce fruit (though never as well as an unclipped tree), making it highly beneficial for wildlife. It also offers seasonal interest (flowers, berries) in a way that other hedges do not. Grows anywhere with good light.

Cons
Fast growing, vicious to clip and the clippings are horrible to dispose of — it's easy to find odd thorns stuck in shoes and wheelbarrow tyres months later. No fun weeding out other seedling trees or brambles underneath. A thorn hedge will undoubtedly lead to thorn seedlings around the garden, but these are easily fished out while small.

Rosa rugosa (Japanese or Ramanas rose)

Pros
A large, wind-tolerant rose, with a long flowering season, bearing huge hips throughout much of the summer. While the habit lends itself to an informal mounding hedge of 1.5m high, the perfumed flowers vary in formality from fine doubles (Wild Edric 'Aushedge', 'Blanche Double de Coubert') to generous singles in white, pale and dark pink, and red. People proof if not animal proof. Good on poor soil.

Cons
Prickly, though nothing like thorn. Visually transparent in winter. No clipping and no deadheading, although if you do deadhead you will lose some hips but get more late flowers. However, you will always need to prune in winter, albeit roughly, instead of clipping.

Mixed natives (thorn, dog rose, guelder rose, hazel, dogwood, holly)

Pros
Best suited to wilder gardens because, unless you weed it, the specific mix you buy will change through the addition of self-seeding by trees and garden shrubs. You simply clip a shape from this muddle, and there's nothing wrong with that. Wildlife love it and that's the point.

Cons
Avoid being sold over-vigorous or suckering species such as elm or blackthorn which will only cause trouble in a modest hedge. In mixed hedges the more dominant species like hazel tend to take over their immediate space, so that if they have to be seriously cut back it leaves a huge temporary gap.

Privet *(Ligustrum ovalifolium)*

Pros
Privet is "semi evergreen": unlike beech, whose leaves die in autumn but cling on, privet leaves stay green, dropping gradually if it's very cold until the plant is not far from bare. It's dense, will grow in sun or shade and city pollution, and on dry, hungry urban soil.

Cons
Privet grows fast and requires regular clipping — fine if it's all yours, less so if the other side belongs to a neighbour. Its stems are twiggy and upright and, once bare, have little attraction. If it flowers, the smell is unattractive, but as a clipped hedge that's uncommon. Susceptible to honey fungus.

Question time

Q I was given a kiwi plant two years ago that is growing well and climbing vigorously up a trellis. It has not flowered yet. When it arrived it had a label saying it must be planted near an opposite-sex kiwi, so fruit would be produced. Unfortunately that label has gone missing, so I do not know what sex the plant is. Is there any way of finding out? Or do I need to buy two new plants if I want fruit?
E James

A This is a tricky one. I should start pruning straight away as you would a mature fruiting plant (you'll have to look it up — it's roughly a matter of shortening back those long arms to produce stubbier growth) in the hope of inducing some sexable flowers. Kiwi vines are such big things that planting two more seems crazy. Once it has flowered (it's not difficult to identify the sex; female flowers are creamy, males bright yellow. You'll find images online), you can buy one of the opposite sex from a specialist fruit grower such as Chris Bowers and get it planted as soon as possible. Visit chrisbowers.co.uk.
Send your queries to stephen.anderton@thetimes.co.uk

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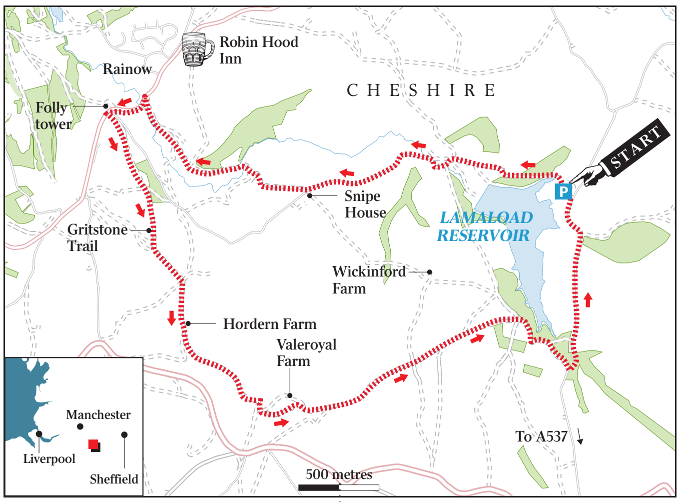




A good walk Lamaload Reservoir and Gritstone Trail, Cheshire

How hard is it?

5½ miles; moderate; several step stiles



At eight in the morning Lamaload Reservoir lay mirror-still, curled into the interstices of its surrounding hills. A faint vapour drifted across the water where 50 greylag geese drifted gently together. All looked as natural as could be in the early light, and it was hard to credit that the reservoir had been in existence for only 60 years.

A stony track shadowed the northern shore through thickets of foxgloves. I clambered over a wall by way of a stone step stile, the first of many, and dropped down a hillside where drowsy cattle were browsing the grass. A fingerpost at Snipe House Farm pointed helpfully to "This Way, That Way and The Other Way", but I only had to look down the slope to see the walled lane I was aiming for.

This hilly corner of northeast Cheshire is all tumbled sheep-farming country, its steep little valleys cutting deep into rounded gritstone hills. The farm lane to Rainow couldn't be more typical of these old cart tracks if it tried — neatly walled, overspread with sycamores and carrying a mohican crest of grass along its central strip.

Guarding the southern entrance to the former coalmining and textile milling village stands a folly tower. Shaped like a clutch of chimneys rising from a fat square stack, it's a thing not of beauty but of mystery, since no one seems to know the why and wherefore of its existence.

No such intrigue about White Nancy on the ridge beyond. This plump bottle-shaped monument was put up in 1817 to celebrate Napoleon Bonaparte's defeat at Waterloo. Whitewashed, Nancy shone tiny but clear against the clouds as I climbed the Gritstone Trail's shallow track south past conifer plantations, thorn trees and stone-walled sheep pastures scattered with hanks of wool.

Above Valeroyal Farm a gap in a tumbled wall had been plugged with a superannuated piece of farm machinery, a "Progress Haymaker, by Bamfords of Uttoxeter", according to the maker's label. Half a century must have passed since its wooden arms last turned to fluff up the cut grass. Nowadays the thin spokes of its cast-iron wheels make handy scratching posts for sheep, and a picnic seat today for this homeward-bound walker.

Lamaload Reservoir. Top right: foxgloves populate the water's edges. Above right: White Nancy, the monument to Wellington's victory at Waterloo

TIMES+

Would you like to go on a guided walk with Christopher Somerville? Times+ members have the chance to join him on a walk around Wallasea Island, Essex, an area he explores in detail in his latest book, *Walking the Bones of Britain*. mytimesplus.co.uk/competitions

Start Lamaload Reservoir car park, near Rainow SK10 5XJ (OS ref SJ 976753)
Getting there Signed "Saltersford, Goyt Valley" from A537 between Walker Barn and A54 junction. Reservoir car park 1 mile on left.
Walk (OS Explorer OL24): Pass metal gates; right along track (fingerpost/FP). In ¼ mile, 30m beyond right bend, left (972754, stone step stile/SSS) down field to bottom left. Through kissing gate/KG, then left up service road (967755).
At Snipe House, right (960753, SSS, FP), down to walled lane past farm (957754, yellow arrows/YA). In 1/3 mile at top of rise, lower fork left (953754) to B5470 (950758). Right for Rainow and Robin Hood Inn; left to continue on pavement. In 200m, opposite Folly Tower, left (948758, "Gritstone Trail"/GT). Follow GT. In ¾ mile, where GT turns right (952747), fork half right (fenced path) to Hordern Farm. Through farmyard; past last building, ahead (953744) through gates on grassy track. In 300m at wall corner (955742), ahead along hillside. In 350m cross stream (957740), then drive; left (KG, YA) on above Valeroyal. In just over ½ mile cross Low Wickinford drive (966742), then footbridge (968743). In next field don't fork left, but follow wall. Descend to track (973745); right to road (976742); left to car park.
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Now's the time to tackle your smartphone

Modern mobile phones (smartphones as they're called) are amazing things. More powerful than those old mainframes that filled entire buildings – and yet so small you can fit them in your pocket.

And possibly the best thing phones can do for you is help you keep in touch with family and friends. I don't just mean ordinary phone calls – any old phone could do that.

But with a smartphone, in just a few taps of the screen you could be sharing a video call – talking to them as if they were sat right there beside you. Not only that, they can do everything from browsing the web to emails, taking photos to watching TV and lots more. Oh and you can still use them for ordinary phone calls too, of course!

All that whether you're at home on the sofa, at a cafe, in a hotel, waiting for a train or even sitting on the bus.

But (there's always a "but" with modern technology, it seems), it's not always as simple as that.

Sometimes it's simply not obvious how to do the things you want to do. Or you might not be aware of the things your phone could do for you. Not all of them would be things you're interested in, but some of them almost certainly would be handy.

Sometimes it can drive you mad trying to do the simple stuff, because it just isn't obvious until someone shows you.

You can ask a friend, of course. But if they have a slightly different model of phone they might not know. Or if they're a young technological whizz, they just do it for you, leaving you none the wiser for next time. Or say "You just do this"... and seconds later it's done and you still don't know how!

The obvious thing would be for the manufacturers to include a decent manual with each phone - but they never seem to. At best you get a couple of small pieces of paper telling you how to charge it. As if that was all you need to know!

Maybe it's because manuals – paper books – are seen as too "old fashioned". Some manufacturers put a manual on the device itself as an ebook – great if you already know how to use it... in which case you don't need the manual!

That's where a set of books from The Helpful Book Company come in. They're a small, employee-owned company based in Cumbria and lots of their customers say they certainly live up to their name! They've published *iPhones One Step at a Time*, *Android Phones One Step at a Time* and *Doro Smartphones One Step at a Time* – and these books have proved hugely popular with all sorts of people who have a smartphone – but who aren't experts at using it.

Whether you're frustrated with the very basics, want to know what else it can do for you or wish you knew how to do some of the slightly fancier things, this book might be just what you need.

> "Plain English without the confusing jargon & gobbledygook"

It explains everything nice and simply, in plain English, without all the confusing jargon and gobbledygook. And it has lots of pictures showing exactly what to do - where to tap the screen and so on.

The company have already published books about computers and tablets that have helped thousands of people. But they actually started much smaller - the author wrote some notes to help his Mum and Dad on their PC and realised that other people might find them useful too. Several thousand happy people later, they decided to bring out a book on smartphones as well - and if you've ever been frustrated with your smartphone, it's worth finding out more.



Modern phones can be baffling – but there's a solution...

As a small independent publisher, the books aren't in the shops or available on Amazon, but you can get a free information pack telling you about what's covered in the books, who they're suitable for and how to get hold of them from the company –

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An End to Getting Frustrated with your Smartphone

Finally discover how to get it to do what you want, easily (and find out what else you can do with it, too)

At last, using your smartphone can be easy, simple and stress-free. Find out how...

Modern mobile phones (smartphones as they're called) can do so much more than just make phone calls – from browsing the web wherever you are, to checking train times, to acting as a sat nav...

And best of all they can make it so easy to keep in touch with family and friends – in so many ways, from sharing photos to making video calls.

But using them isn't always as easy as you'd want – and that's putting it mildly!

Do the manufacturers do it on purpose?

Sometimes it can seem like the manufacturers deliberately make them complicated - and how you do things is often hidden away. It might be easy once you know, but until you've been shown the easy way, it can drive you mad.

In fact only yesterday I was talking to someone whose Mum had got a new all-singing-all-dancing phone – but she couldn't work out how to answer a phone call on it! She's not daft - it's just that it's different from what she'd used before and the phone didn't come with a manual telling her what to do.

Whether you have similar problems or you're trying to do something slightly more advanced, the thing is, it can be easy to use them... once you know how. But until you've been shown, it can be like talking a different language.

That's why we've published these books: *iPhones One Step at a Time*, *Android Phones One Step at a Time* and *Doro Smartphones One Step at a Time*.

Plain English... and that's not all

They explain how to use the phone, in plain simple language with pictures of the screen showing you exactly where to tap or slide your fingers. No jargon!

What's covered?

I can't list it all here. But amongst other things, you'll discover:

- The basics of controlling it - swiping, tapping, opening apps and so on.
- How to use it as a sat-nav.
- Send emails from your phone.
- Most phones have a good camera so you can take photos: here's how to use it properly (and for videos).
- Share photos with friends around the world - quickly and easily.
- See updates, photos and video clips from friends and family - as soon as they "post" them.
- Instant messaging and how to use it
- Video phone calls – a great way to keep up with family who live a long way away
- Make it easier to read the screen.
- Browse the web at home or out and about.
- Choosing and downloading apps

And obviously, you can make phone calls and send and receive text messages. ("Voicemail" is covered, too)

All explained nice and simply. (Find out more in the free information pack – read on...)

What one reader had to say:

"Thanks for a fantastic smart phone book. Very pleasant staff as usual.

I think this book should be sold with every smart phone. I have learnt so much from it, the info you get with the phone is non-existent.

Smart phones are quite complex, and your books speak in plain English."

Only half the story

That's only half the story but I don't have room to explain here. I've put together full information on the books - who they're for, what they cover and so on.

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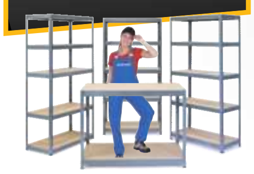
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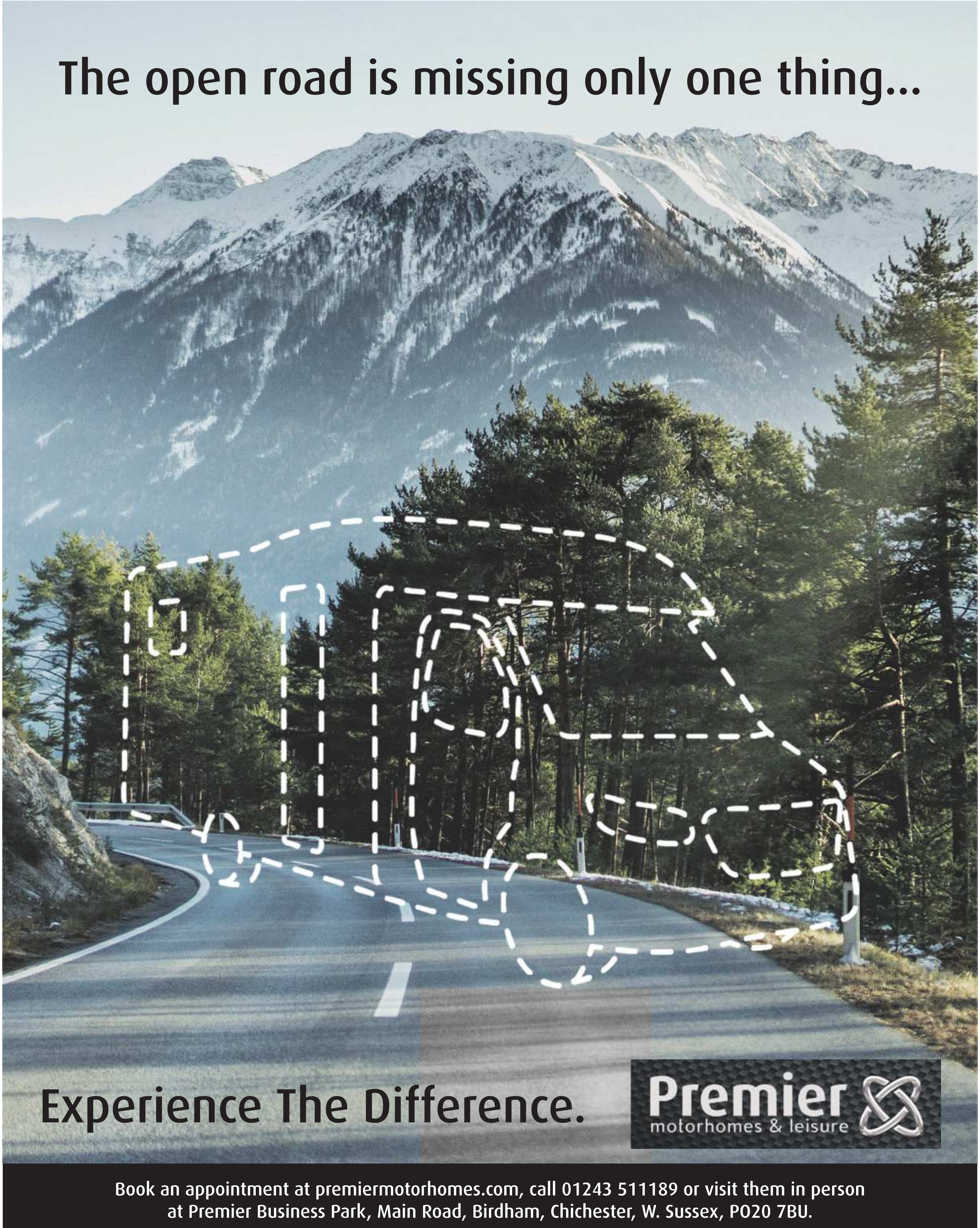
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One year ago, we said goodbye to the greatest monarch in our history. A new gold coin, with a design that recalls the military procession with which our nation said farewell, has just been announced. You may own this lasting memorial at the introductory price of just £129, but only for a limited time.



It is now a year since Queen Elizabeth II was laid to rest. On Monday 19th September 2022, in the first State funeral this nation had seen in over fifty years, we came together to mourn the loss of Britain's longest reigning monarch.

Now that the immediate emotions surrounding the loss of The Queen have abated, many people are looking for a way to memorialise her incredible reign and remember how we all felt a year ago, as we watched the state funeral of a queen loved and admired around the world.

THE FIRST STATE FUNERAL IN OVER FIFTY YEARS

Queen Elizabeth II was given a state funeral, the first held in Britain since Winston Churchill's in 1965. The funeral service at Westminster Abbey was followed by a procession that featured around 3,000 military personnel, and around a million people lined the route through central London.

The monumental sight of massed bands and marching regiments, the magnificent effort of transporting the coffin atop a gun carriage, the colour and sound and dignified splendour of it all left us in no doubt that the funeral procession of Elizabeth II would be something to remember. It was an incredibly impressive display and the embodiment of tradition - Britain rose to the occasion and gave a beloved monarch a fitting send-off.

NEW COIN IS A FITTING TRIBUTE

To coincide with this first anniversary a new gold quarter sovereign has been announced. The design recalls the impressive Memorial Procession. Using a triple-finish Proof minting technique, it simulates a 'row' of service personnel, to acknowledge the formed rows of service men and women who took part in the procession on the day.

The result is a coin of beautiful contrast, one that is sure to be popular with collectors both here and around the world. However, only 2,022 of these new coins have been produced.

ONLY 2,022 PEOPLE CAN OWN ONE!

This new coin is authorised by Ascension Island, and approved by both the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Buckingham Palace. It is expected to attract considerable interest.

However, with a mintage restricted to just 2,022 coins it's possible that many people will miss out. Putting that into context: this means **fewer than 1 in every 13,500 UK households can own one!**

This new gold quarter sovereign marks the first anniversary of the passing of Queen Elizabeth II. The design recalls the military procession with which she was laid to rest. Just 2,022 have been minted. It is available now at the introductory price of just £129 (plus £4.99 P&P), but only until 30th November 2023 after which the price will be £299, subject to availability. There is a limit of one coin per household at the introductory price.
Diameter: 14.0mm



COINS PURCHASED WILL SUPPORT SSAFA, THE ARMED FORCES CHARITY

Every purchase of these new gold coins will support SSAFA, the Armed Forces charity, which provides welfare and well-being assistance to our forces and their families. This is a charity which the late Queen Elizabeth II supported for the entirety of her reign, taking her father's place as Patron upon his death in 1952. Ten percent (10%) of all net profits on sales of these gold coins will be paid in support of SSAFA.

HOW TO SECURE ONE FOR YOURSELF

Those interested in owning one of these new gold coins may do so now by taking advantage of the introductory price being offered by Hattons of London. The coin is available for just £129 (plus £4.99 P&P) but only until 30th November 2023 after which the price will be £299 (plus P&P). Applicants must be aged 18 years or over and this offer is subject to availability. A strict limit of one per household applies.

Each coin comes with a 60 day full right of return. The contact details for Hattons of London appear below. Note this offer is not available elsewhere.

Order now at the introductory price of just £129 (plus £4.99 P&P) by calling:

Offer Reference: **3044**

Hattons of LONDON

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Online at www.hattonsoflondon.co.uk

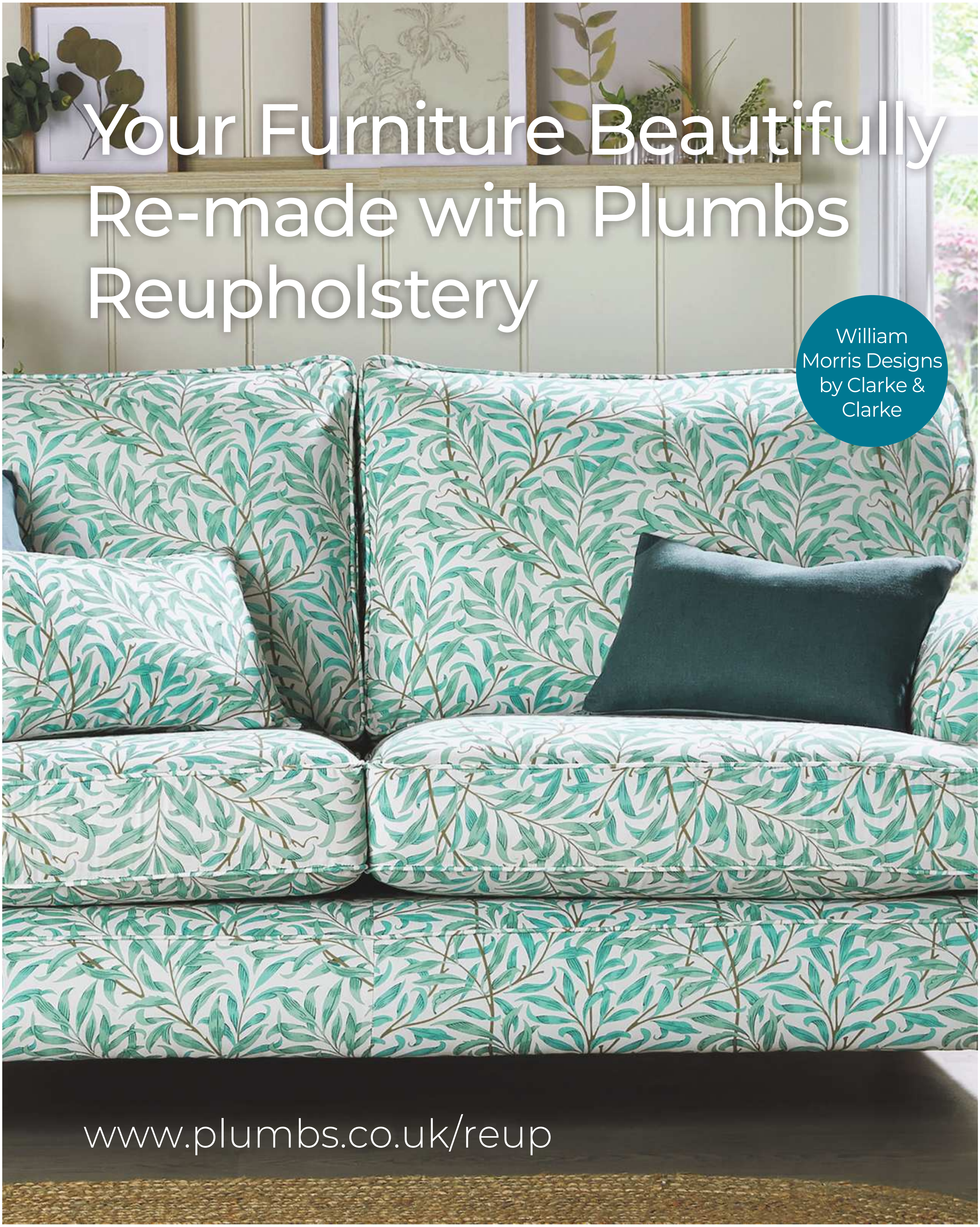
Major credit cards accepted.* Introductory price is £129 (plus £4.99 P&P) until 30th November 2023 after which the price will be £299.00 (plus £4.99 P&P). Offer subject to availability | Limit of one coin per household. | Your order is covered by our no-questions-asked 60 day complete satisfaction guarantee | Hattons of London has a five star Trustpilot rating | Technical specifications: Coin; quarter sovereign | Issuing authority: Ascension Island | Diameter: 14.0mm | Date of coin: 2023 | Weight: 2gm | Purity: 22 carat gold | Minting quality: Proof, the highest possible quality | Hattons of London reserves the right to alter or withdraw this offer before the end date | Orders by post: send name, address,cheque, P.O. or credit card details to "FREEPOST Hattons of London" | Hattons of London Ltd, Company 10718280

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Proudly associated with SSAFA, the Armed Forces charity. 10% of all net profits on sales of this coin, and other coins in this series, will be paid in support of SSAFA. Registered as a charity in England and Wales (Number 210760) in Scotland (Number SCO38056)

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Order with confidence: Your order is covered by a full 60 days right of return. Hattons of London has a five star Trustpilot rating.


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Best of Homes

Here's a variety of ideas for the home or garden – whether they're to make better use of living space or for the family living in that space, these should fire up the imagination

Read more online! Visit thebestofliving.com and follow @bestofliving

More than just great colours



Discover the artistry of Fenwick & Tilbrook, a Norfolk-based, family-run, independent paint brand. Their premium, pigment-rich paints redefine excellence, embrace enduring quality and deliver intense depth of colour without compromising on durability. With an extensive colour palette that is made-to-order in six beautiful finishes, the signature product, Pure Matt Plus, provides an exquisite 3% low-sheen finish that is both scrubbable and classed as 'minimal' in volatile organic compounds (VOCs).

Shop online at *fenwickandtilbrook.com* or call 01362 684125.

FENWICK & TILBROOK

Sparking a lighting revolution

THE SOHO LIGHTING COMPANY

Renovating properties in Soho, London with a passion for interiors and the belief that lighting has the power to transform a well-designed space, Lee Lovett co-founded The Soho Lighting Company.

Born and designed in London, their creative roots are planted in Cornwall, amidst a hotbed of sustainably minded, artisan talent.

Today, this proudly British brand is blazing a trail, hand crafting exquisite lighting through a blend of traditional and modern methods. Working with natural materials and injecting exciting new technology to enhance lighting functionality.

Among their collection of beautiful screwless Switches and Sockets, they have revolutionised the humble dimming knob to introduce their first ever Dimming Toggle – which not only looks stunning but is technically re-engineered using award-winning Enkin technology to eradicate the historical compatibility issues, such as buzzing and failure.





Lee comments: *"The ability to dim a light not only enables an efficient use of energy, but is essential for controlling the ambience. We are delighted to have designed a dimming toggle without the compatibility issues so often experienced."*

And it isn't just switches and sockets that Soho Lighting prides themselves on.

They create beautiful lighting from raw materials and consistently seek out new sustainable sources. Launched as part of Selfridges' Lets Change campaign, their Ocean collection is a suite of beautiful contemporary pendants, 3D printed from recycled plastics and disused fishing nets.

The Soho Lighting Company bring the best of British talent to lighting.

Visit *soholighting.com* or call 020 8106 1221 to find out more.

Win a handmade computer workstation *Worth £447!*

SAVI www.savi.shop

Looking to add a touch of industrial elegance to your home or workspace? Look no further! Savi are a small, passionate team based in the heart of the North of England, and they're on a mission to transform your living and workspaces with their unique scaffold board furniture.

Why choose Savi? Because they're not your average furniture store. They're a small team who personally design, manufacture, deliver, and install every piece themselves. No middlemen, no couriers – just Savi, making sure you get the quality and care you deserve.





Their secret ingredient? The scaffold boards they use have a story to tell. Each board, with its natural cracks, knots, and marks from its previous life on construction sites, boasts a rich history. When you bring Savi furniture into your home or workspace, you're not just getting a piece of décor – you're getting a slice of history.

From dining tables and benches perfect for cosy family meals to impressive boardroom tables that command attention, their creations fit seamlessly into any setting.

Experience the warmth and character of handcrafted pieces – it's time to make your space a conversation starter.

Visit *savi.shop* to explore the collection today or call 01484 766566 to find out more.

To enter visit *checklists.co.uk/win/savi*

A tribute to Kaare Klint

Kaare Klint's (1888 to 1954) furniture holds a special position in the story of modern Danish design. Several decades after their creation, iconic works such as Klint's Red Chair Series, sofas and Faaborg Chair are still highly sought-after pieces, as they laid the foundation for the Danish Modern phenomenon worldwide.

As a teacher and co-founder of the Department of Furniture Design at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, established in 1924, Klint inspired a new generation of designers, including Arne Jacobsen, Mogens Koch and Poul Kjærholm. Today, Klint is regarded as a reformer – as one of the first designers to put functionalism and the practical study of architecture and furniture design principles above style, he redefined a period otherwise characterised by style-focused academic teaching.

Kaare Klint was a renowned furniture designer and professor who later became known as the father of modern Danish design. With designs dating back to 1914, Klint's sophisticated and visionary furniture designs have proven to be timeless classics and a testament to impeccable craftsmanship.





In homage to the Danish designer's life and work, Carl Hansen & Søn present A Tribute to Kaare Klint – a series of home visits where they step into the private residences of people living and working with Klint's iconic designs. Common for all is their love for design, art and architecture.

CARL HANSEN & SØN

Experience the collection first hand in their Carl Hansen & Søn Flagship Store, 48A Pimlico Road, Belgravia, London, SW1W 8LP.

Win a Sanremo Experience with goodies and a Barista Course for two *Worth £200!*

How do you achieve true barista-quality coffee in your home? Bring a piece of the coffee shop into your kitchen with the Sanremo CUBE!

With a 1.9L stainless-steel boiler, the CUBE allows you to produce intense, delicious espresso and steam milk at the same time. Utilising its high-level steam pressure, the CUBE will allow you to reach the latte art of your dreams, by steaming silky, shiny milk.

Always ready for coffee? The CUBE app allows you to set the time of day your machine switches on, keeping you primed for the next espresso; and when you don't need it, it drops into eco mode to save energy.

In a wide variety of colours, the CUBE helps you produce sensational coffee while being the statement piece in your kitchen, in true Sanremo style.

Visit the Sanremo London HUB in South Kensington or go to *sanremouk.com* to learn more.





To enter visit *checklists.co.uk/win/sanremo*

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Win an Ebdon Firewood BBQ fire pit
Worth £500!

Designed and handmade in Somerset, the Avalon 50 fire pit has a substantial 3mm thick fire bowl with three blacksmith-forged twisted legs and solid handles. Turn this fire pit into a BBQ by adding the tripod and hanging grill over charcoal. Get creative with your outdoor cooking!

Once finished feeding your guests, the tripod and grill can be easily removed. Add firewood and enjoy the heat from your fire pit late into the night. Simply place the lid on top of the fire pit at the end of your evening to extinguish the fire and keep the rain out.

Visit *ebdonfirewood.co.uk* to shop the full range online. Follow *@ebdonfire*


Pictured is The Wessex Fire Pit

To enter visit *checklists.co.uk/win/ebdonfirewood*

Win an exclusive Pateru Knife
Worth £239!

For over 1,000 years, Japan has been at the leading edge in the crafting of formidable blades. Employing traditional skills combined with modern technology, Japanese Knife Company is proud to present a carefully curated selection of over 7,000 products.

This includes knives, cookware, and tools, all from Japan; in-house sharpening service; lessons on sharpening, knife skills, Japanese flower arranging; detailed information and guidance. A visit to one of their emporiums or websites is an absolute must for anyone passionate about cooking.

Visit *japaneseknifecompany.com* to find out more.



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Every dog's dream

Tuffies Dog Beds are designed and handmade in Scotland. With 23 years of experience, all the Tuffies designs are exactly what both dogs and their owners need for comfort and durability. All Tuffies beds are outstandingly strong and durable, and they are all waterproof. In addition to the basic waterproof beds, Tuffies supplies soft, removable covers for easy washing for the entire range of beds.





The Tuffies range features a guaranteed chew-proof bed, The Really Tough Tuffie. There is also a practical raised bed (left hand photo) with a washable cover and there are Puppy and Travel Tuffies as well. Tuffies' most famous and popular bed is the Nest bed with cosy, removable cover (photo above).

Visit *tuffies.co.uk* and use code TT10 for 10% off your order.

Unique furniture with a story to tell

The fundamental idea behind all the furniture from Thors Design, is that of upcycling. Rustic azobé wood, sourced from decommissioned Danish harbours, is turned into simple and stylish designer furniture. The result is bespoke, handmade furniture with a natural Nordic feel that retains the integrity, history and authentic character of the wood. The wood's original raw look is a result of its exposure to the natural elements for more than half a century. No two pieces of wood are identical. Each piece of furniture is quite simply one of a kind, full of character and soul. The weathered wood has a grounding effect. It draws the eye and leaves an impression. The unpolished look creates a unique atmosphere and acts as a rustic contrast to the popular high gloss style, personalising your home.







The Thors Design team make everything by hand in Denmark, customising the furniture to individual specifications, from dimensions to expression. They create furniture with an understanding of the way that wood works and moves, preserving and incorporating the natural grooves and crevices, with the utmost respect for the wood's history. The reclaimed wood has been validated and certified as containing only natural oils. It is certified by FSC as recycled 100%. Their furniture is robust and virtually indestructible, with a life cycle lasting as long as the wood's own history. All of their furniture can be used indoors and outdoors all year round, in private homes as well as public spaces. Regardless of where you choose to place it, it will last for generations.

THORS DESIGN

Visit *thors-design.com* for more information on their rustic furniture and don't hesitate to get in touch!

Reginox – the best just got better

Reginox UK – one of the leading sink, tap and accessory manufacturers – are excited to relaunch their legendary ceramic sink range, promising that the best just got even better!

Renowned in the industry for their high quality, Reginox's ceramic sinks are made from premium materials and guarantee the highest standard finish for each product.

The newly relaunched RL301CW Mk2 and RL304CW Mk2 are beautiful sinks that combine the stunning high-gloss appearance of vitreous china with contemporary design, and are available in different bowl configurations, such as 1.5 or single bowl with drainer.

The legendary ceramic range now offers a newly designed contemporary drainer, a more modern overflow design that adds even more appeal to this already stunning sink collection. The new ceramics will now carry the recognised and renowned Reginox logo on all models.



The relaunch of these ever-popular sinks demonstrates Reginox UK's commitment to offering the highest quality products as part of the trusted Reginox brand, with competitive prices.

For more information, call 01260 280033 or email *sales@reginox.co.uk*. Alternatively, visit *reginox.co.uk*


Image courtesy of Lightfoot Windows (Kent)

Snug fit

Planning a new look for your home? With many people spending more time at home, householders are becoming increasingly design-savvy by creating a personal style that reflects their lifestyle. Individual style is in.

Russell Ager, managing director of Crittall Windows, a pioneer of bespoke steel frame window manufacturing for almost 180 years, said: *"Creating a cosy snug room is a great way to show individuality. Think dimmable 'focus' lighting, soft furnishings, striking colours, smart TVs, games sections, a book corner for the kids – and sharing natural light throughout your home."*

Clever use of glazing via Innervision internal steel screens, doors and windows – made to order to suit your personal needs – ensures that natural light floods in. They look stylish, and have slim, elegant profiles without compromising space, warmth or cosiness.

As the original steel window company, Crittall products are expertly handcrafted by artisans, built to last and uniquely British made.

For more information about Crittall Windows, visit *crittall-windows.co.uk*, call 0137 653 0800, or email *hq@crittall-windows.co.uk*

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Viking ocean ship, Dubrovnik, Croatia

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Travel

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'Austria's lake water is so crystal clear you do sometimes end up sipping as you swim'
Neil Fisher on Europe's most wholesome family break

MARTINM303/GETTY IMAGES



The Cinque Terre's multicoloured Vernazza

25 brilliant walking holidays

Italy's romantic Cinque Terre, Crete's epic gorge and Spain's rural Andalusia all make for inspiring walks, says Richard Mellor

Not everyone is ready for autumn, but its arrival leaves walkers like me weak at the pole-supported knees. First reason: the weather. Not only will summer's heat and humidity soon recede to moderate temperatures more conducive to hiking, but footpaths should still be mud-free.

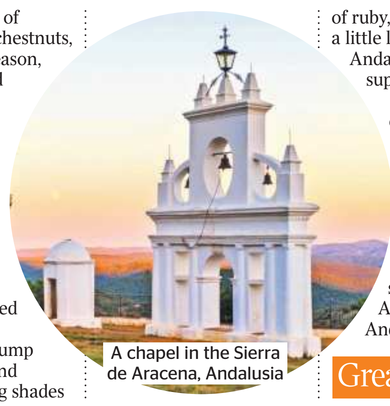
Then there's the absence of crowds. Perhaps some ramblers relish throngs — those who tackle Snowdonia on a summer Saturday certainly seem to — but most of us don't. Autumn doesn't necessarily guarantee tranquillity, but you've got much-bolstered odds outside the school holidays.

Autumn is additionally a time of gastronomic plenty: in Europe, chestnuts, porcini and saffron come into season, while truffles are sniffed out and grapes picked. As demonstrated here by tours to Piedmont and the Dordogne, some walking-holiday operators take food as seriously as footpaths.

Wildlife-lover? Head to Canada, the Republic of Ireland and Finland for, respectively, grizzly bears, rutting red deer and friendly reindeer, or to the Bhutanese valleys to which sacred cranes migrate.

Let's not forget the season's trump card. Meadows, moors, woods and forests that turn brilliant, blazing shades of ruby, russet and butterscotch. With a little luck, hikes across Europe from Andalusia to Slovenia should all supply captivating shows.

Europe is the obvious and easiest place to visit, but don't discount going further afield. This is also a fine time to roam part of Japan's coast, to head for the Himalayas, or to follow the Jordan Trail to Petra. Nor should you ignore the southern hemisphere: whale sightings will soon accompany walks in South Africa, while Bolivia's chunk of the Andes yields some serious, sublime



A chapel in the Sierra de Aracena, Andalusia

Great walks next page

trekking. So what are you waiting for? Pack those poles, compress that cagoule (just in case) and lace up your boots. It's time to go hiking.


Sea view on Guernsey


Safari luxury in Zambia


Lekkerwater Lodge, South Africa

Easy ambles in Andalusia

Andalusian autumns are mild and magical; festivals occur as the area's many olives are tugged from trees, dishes incorporate seasonal chestnuts, and oak hillsides slowly assume a fudgey tint. Northwest of Seville, the underrated Sierra de Aracena has all that, plus inviting paths across delightful rural valleys. Based at Posada de San Marcos, a family-run village hotel with a pool, you can undertake five placid walks at your leisure and also go on a nature-themed stroll with a guide.
Details Seven nights' B&B from £865pp, including car hire and three dinners (inntravel.co.uk). Fly to Seville

South Africa's Whale Trail

During autumn in South Africa's Western Cape, southern right whales appear just out to sea. Your odds of seeing one are especially good on the new De Hoop Camino, or Whale Trail. It's a ten-mile wilderness walk between the Morukuru Beach Lodge and the equally opulent, equally eco-conscious Lekkerwater Lodge while guides also introduce the area's other fauna — yellow mongooses; mountain zebras — and abundant flora. You can easily add on a stay in Cape Town afterwards.
Details Four nights' full board from £3,862pp, including all flights, transport and activities (aardvarksafaris.com)

Spooky German stroll

Seasonal mists and wisps of woodsmoke from the chimneys of half-timbered houses set the scene in northern Germany's folklore-happy Harz National Park. With Halloween nearing, the Harz Witches Trail footpath between Osterode and Thale connects sites associated with sorcery, but, undertaking 38 miles of it, self-guided walkers will also be bewitched by mossy-floored forests, traditional villages and the looming Brocken mountain, up which chugs a small steam train.
Details Four nights' B&B from £505pp, including luggage transfers (macsadventure.com). Fly or take the train to Hanover or Berlin

Japan's Pacific coast path

Undertaking the entire 637-mile Michinoku Coastal Trail might be a stretch, so why not just do its most varied section on a small-group tour? Walking from Hachinohe to Kesennuma in northeastern Japan's volcanic Tohoku region, you'll stride past beaches and white sandstone cliffs to ravines, fishing hamlets and Shinto shrines. Some nights are spent at inns with hot-spring baths. Between humid summer and snowy winter, autumn is the optimum time.
Details Eight nights' half-board from £2,494pp, including transport and luggage transfers; departing on October 14 (walkjapan.com). Fly to Tokyo

A scenic walk around the Republic of Ireland's Kerry peninsula

Red deer stags in Killarney National Park rut during autumn and, even if you don't witness males locking horns, you'll hear their haunting bellows. Killarney marks the start of a self-guided walking tour around the Kerry peninsula in the southwest of the Republic of Ireland, while later days deliver sandy shores and bronzing oaks before a ferry to Skellig Michael's ancient island monastery. You then head inland as narrow passes precede emerald-coloured valleys before finishing at the village of Caherdaniel.
Details Seven nights' B&B from £1,140pp, including transport, luggage transfers and some extra meals (celtictrailswalkingholidays.co.uk). Fly to Kerry


Alfresco "star bed" on Australia's Arkaba Walk

Corsican stroll to the sea

As part of this itinerary, self-guided trampers gradually descend to the sea, covering between five and nine miles a day. Beyond the old capital of Corte, mountain passes and pine forests give way to natural swimming pools. A lavender-scented, zig-zagging gorge path comes next, complete with sunset views over the Gulf of Porto, before you arrive in the flower-bedecked mountain village of Oto. On the last day you reach the startling Calanques de Piana and granite needles that turn a pinkish tone in low sunlight.
Details Six nights' B&B from £810pp, including transfers and two dinners (thenaturaladventure.com). Fly to Ajaccio

Cinque Terre, Liguria

After 11 years of closure following landslides, the Cinque Terre's Via dell'Amore (Way of Love) between Riomaggiore and Manarola has partially reopened. Access is confined to the initial section through pre-booked multilingual tours that will be available until September 30 (£5; viadellamore.info). On this self-guided trip there's a free day to experience the Way of Love on a route that takes in three other multicoloured villages, including chichi Vernazza.
Details Five nights' B&B from £690pp, including transport (walkersbritain.co.uk). Fly to Pisa or Genoa

A walking festival on Guernsey

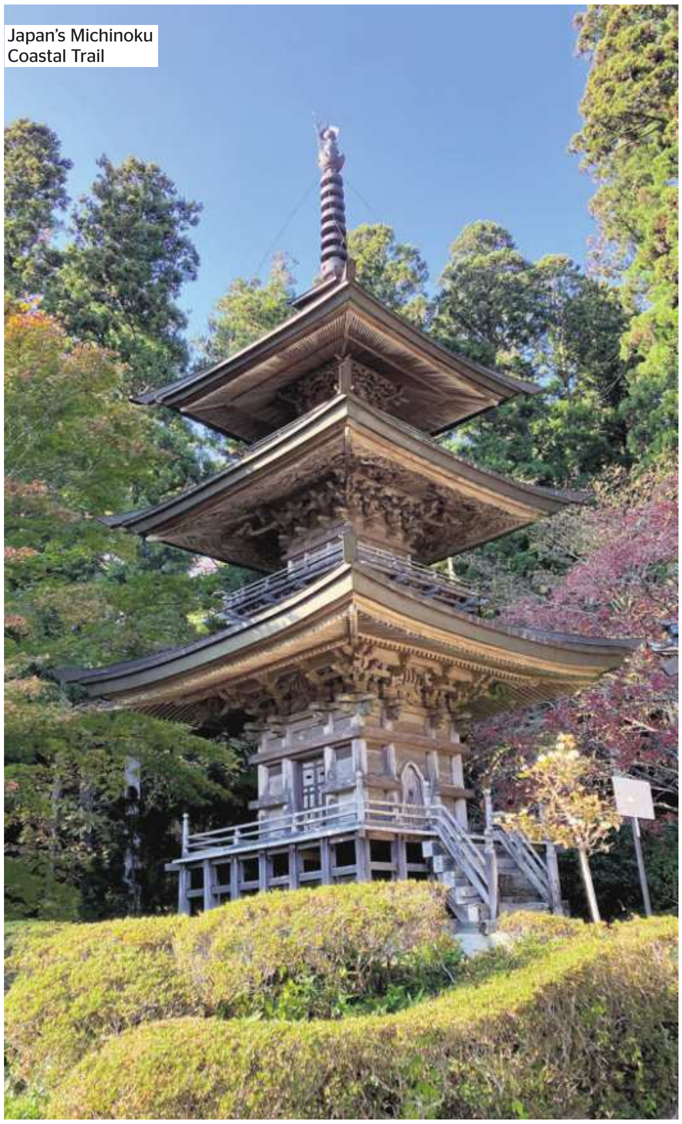
Guernsey holds an Autumn Walking Festival from September 16 to October 1 (visitguernsey.com). The beach-lined Channel Island usually remains mild until after that as auburn foliage colours Saumarez Park. Sign up for rambles led by local experts, then undertake a self-guided trot that additionally visits Sark and Herm. Among its highlights are Nazi artillery towers and seascapes that inspired Renoir; you might spot a seal too.
Details Seven nights' B&B from £940pp, including transport and luggage transfers (utracks.com). Fly to St Peter Port

Roam the outback

Bone-dry creek beds, natural mountain amphitheatres and kangaroos characterise the 28-mile Arkaba Walk, a three-night journey encompassing the Flinders Range in South Australia's



WALK JAPAN



Japan's Michinoku Coastal Trail

outback. Undertaken with guides, it's especially rewarding in spring (our autumn) as wildflowers proliferate and emu chicks hatch. Between staying at the Arkaba Conservancy's luxurious 1850s homestead, you'll eat three-course campfire meals before falling asleep alfresco on elevated "star bed" platforms. Enjoy it within a wider itinerary taking in Sydney and Adelaide.
Details Nine nights' B&B from £5,529pp, including all transfers and activities, and some extra meals (redsavannah.com). Fly to Sydney

A walking safari in Zambia

Zambia's South Luangwa National Park is renowned for its immersive walking options, and this tailor-made itinerary has visitors striding around the distinct landscapes circling three luxurious, remote camps. Autumn is peak viewing season as the drying bush aids sightings; leopards, lions and wild dogs are all prolific here. Armed veteran guides ensure you'll be perfectly safe, and river cruises and drives are also available.
Details Seven nights' full board from £9,999pp, including all flights, transfers and safari activities (theluxurysafaricompany.com)

A great Greek gorge

At one point, the Samaria Gorge tapers to an alley-like width between 300m cliffs, but ramblers can squeeze through on bridges and elevated boardwalks. A Unesco-protected biosphere reserve, the ten-mile chasm headlines a guided walking holiday in eastern Crete, which also promises ancient ruins, beaches and routes through the White Mountains via tavernas serving homemade lemonade. By mid-autumn, Crete's crowds thin and a sense of authenticity returns.



Stunning vistas from Crete's Samaria Gorge

Details Seven nights' half-board from £1,379pp, including flights and transport; departing on October 7 and 14 (hfholidays.co.uk)

Entry-level Nepal

Enticed by dry climes that usually yield crisp, clear panoramas of the Himalayas, trekkers besiege Everest Base Camp in autumn. Leave them to it in favour of this easier, quieter trekking tour across Ganesh Himal, a sub-range with four 7,000m summits surrounding sleepy villages, valleys, forests and terraced farmland. No internal flights are required, and you'll sleep in pre-erected tents with foam mattresses.
Details 14 nights' full board from £2,545pp, including flights and transport; departing on October 13 (keadventure.com)

Truffling in northern Italy

Firmly adhering to the credo that exercise deserves reward, this slow-paced, small-group tour of the Piedmont region pairs foodie highlights with active ones. So for every hazelnut grove, chestnut wood, bumpy Barolo vineyard and glassy lake, you can also look forward to truffle hunting — an autumnal staple — gourmet picnics, dinner at a Michelin-starred restaurant and, for good, gluttonous measure, some artisanal chocolate tasting.
Details Seven nights' full board from £2,735pp, including transport and activities; departing on October 13 (hedonistichiking.com). Fly to Turin

Follow the Jordan Trail to Petra

A chunk of the 400-mile Jordan Trail makes for a memorable week, especially in autumn, when cooler days make the going easier. Travelling south from Dana and bedding down in remote dome-tent camps, you'll hike with naturalist guides across rocky desert to river valleys where ibex live. The final stretch brings you to Petra, an ancient city carved into sandstone rocks, after which you can float effortlessly in the Dead Sea.
Details Nine nights' B&B from £4,945pp, including flights, private transfers, activities and most other meals (regent-holidays.co.uk)

A northern lights hike in Finnish Lapland

As well as leaves turning vermillion or amber, autumn at the Lemmenjoki National Park can often be accompanied by the northern lights. Bookended by log-cabin stays where you'll meet a Sami family and their reindeer, this privately

More walks next page

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Cancun	£576^	£2,102#
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Sydney	£960◊	£3,724#
Auckland	£1,161◊	£4,069#

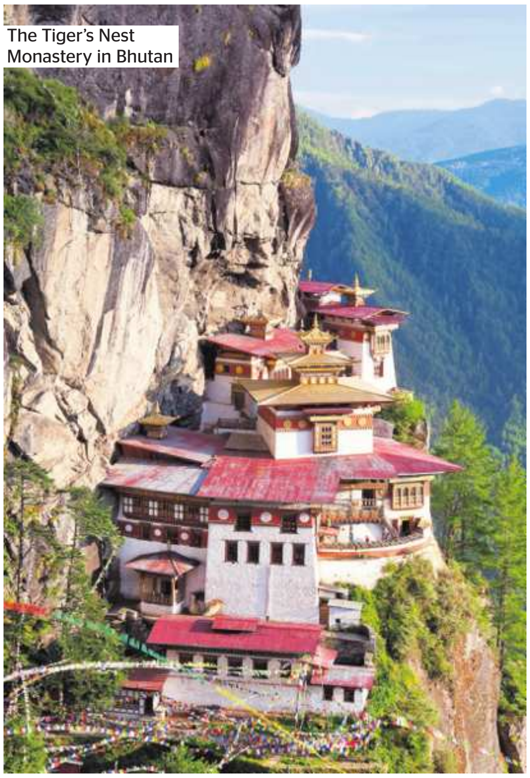
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IATA

ALAMY



The Tiger's Nest Monastery in Bhutan



Cadouin in the Dordogne

▶ guided wilderness hike for small groups involves camping and showcases boreal forest, fells and waterfalls. A gold rush took place here, and you'll also get to try panning. It'll be cold — about 0C in mid-October — but engrossing.
Details Seven nights' full board from £1,072pp, including all transport and camping gear (wildhikesfinland.com). Fly to Ivalo

A jungle and waterfall trek in Dominica

Since Hurricane Maria in 2017, Dominica has reopened half of its 115-mile Waitukubuli Trail — the Caribbean's first long-distance hiking route. Walk jungly sections to swimmable waterfalls on a small-group tour led by Michael Eugene, who helped to create it; your fee will fund repairs to the walk. Days are set aside for snorkelling, whale-watching and hot springs. Rainy season's end in November promises lush scenery without crowds.
Details Eight nights' B&B from £1,966pp, including transport and most other meals; departing on November 25 (muchbetteradventures.com). Fly to Dominica

Striking scenery and farm stays in Slovenia

On western Slovenia's Karst plateau smoke tree plants turn strawberry red in autumn. The region hardly needs any visual help; it already has meadows, meandering rivers that vanish into cliffs, picturesque hill villages and castles below mountains. Offering time in the green-tinged capital, Ljubljana, and the lively Italianate seaport of Trieste, On Foot has devised a self-guided route with overnight stays at farms that have excellent red wine and prosciutto.
Details Six nights' B&B from £960pp, including transport, luggage transfers and some extra meals (onfootholidays.co.uk). Fly to Ljubljana

A tropical trail in La Gomera

"I came to La Gomera to explore part of Spain, yet what I found often resembled jungle-clad Costa Rican mountains," says Chris Bladon of Pura Aventura, which now offers trips to this little-visited Canary Island. Pura's new offering, combining privately and self-guided walks, yields banana groves and tropical cloud forests along with coastal trails and craggy gorges, walking between two and five hours a day. During downtimes, guests might sample La Gomera's spicy cheese pâté or learn about its ancient whistling language.
Details Six nights' B&B from £1,450pp, including ferry tickets, transport, luggage transfers and some extra meals (pura-aventura.com). Fly to Tenerife

Hefty hikes and foodie delights in the Dordogne

Graded as "challenging", Ramblers' new self-guided Dordogne itinerary has been designed to blend the river's pastoral scenery with its gastronomical offerings — which, in autumn, include walnuts, porcini, truffles and saffron. Between handpicked hotels and honey-hued villages, you'll swap waterside paths for those bisecting the higher beech-wooded grounds of the Périgord plateau or leading to the 12th-century Cistercian abbey at Cadouin.
Details Six nights' B&B from £875pp, including transport, luggage transfers and four dinners (ramblersholidays.co.uk). Take the train to Lalinde or fly to Bergerac

Snow-capped massifs and glacial lagoons in Bolivia

Patagonia and the Inca Trail are South America's famous trekking destinations, but if you want to tackle something just as spectacular but far less popular, there's Bolivia. In its Inca trail, a fully-supported and guided adventure combines snow-capped massifs, glacial lagoons and every chance of condor sightings before a surprisingly straightforward ascent of the 6,088m Huayna Potosi peak. You'll mostly camp in high-quality two-person tents, and good fitness is a must.
Details Five nights' full board from £1,613pp, including transport and camping equipment (andeantrails.co.uk). Fly to La Paz

Bear spotting on Canada's sunshine coast

From Vancouver, ramblers on this new itinerary take a ferry to western Canada's Sunshine Coast for a week of fern-filled valleys, cascades, bay views and ridge trails atop creeks. It's possible — sensible even — to book an extension on to Klahoose, an indigenous-owned wilderness resort neighbouring the Great Bear Rainforest. Autumn's salmon run there brings grizzly, black and ghostly-white kermode bears into view as they gleefully fish from riverbanks.
Details 11 nights' B&B from £5,499pp, including flights, transfers, car hire, wildlife-watching tours and some extra meals (headwater.com)



Hotel Nala, Innsbruck

Autumn colours in the Austrian Tyrol

In October rich shades from butter yellow to lipstick red transform Austria's Mieming Plateau courtesy of its transforming larch trees. Less than two miles long, the Obsteiger Larchsteig circular route lets walkers enjoy this spectacle (innsbruck.info). Stay in the mountain-hugged city of Innsbruck, 40 minutes' drive east, and you'll also be able to take cable cars to photograph the high-altitude Stone Pine Path's dark red alpenroses. Innsbruck's boutiquey Hotel Nala makes a peaceful base.
Details Room-only doubles from £119 (nala-hotel.at). Fly to Innsbruck

Lisbon, Sintra and the Douro Valley, Portugal

Having spent a day delving into Lisbon — and sensibly stocking up on pastel de nata tarts — on this gentle new Portuguese tour, you can stride up Sintra's subtropical forests towards a 19th-century palace. Mainland Europe's easternmost point dazzles next on a coastal hike, followed by the Douro Valley, whose waterside villages and terraced vineyards will be humming with harvest activity. A river cruise will drop you off in cobbled Porto with a port cellar tour.
Details Seven nights' B&B from £1,810pp, including transfers, tours, tastings and admission fees (the-carter-company.com). Fly to Lisbon

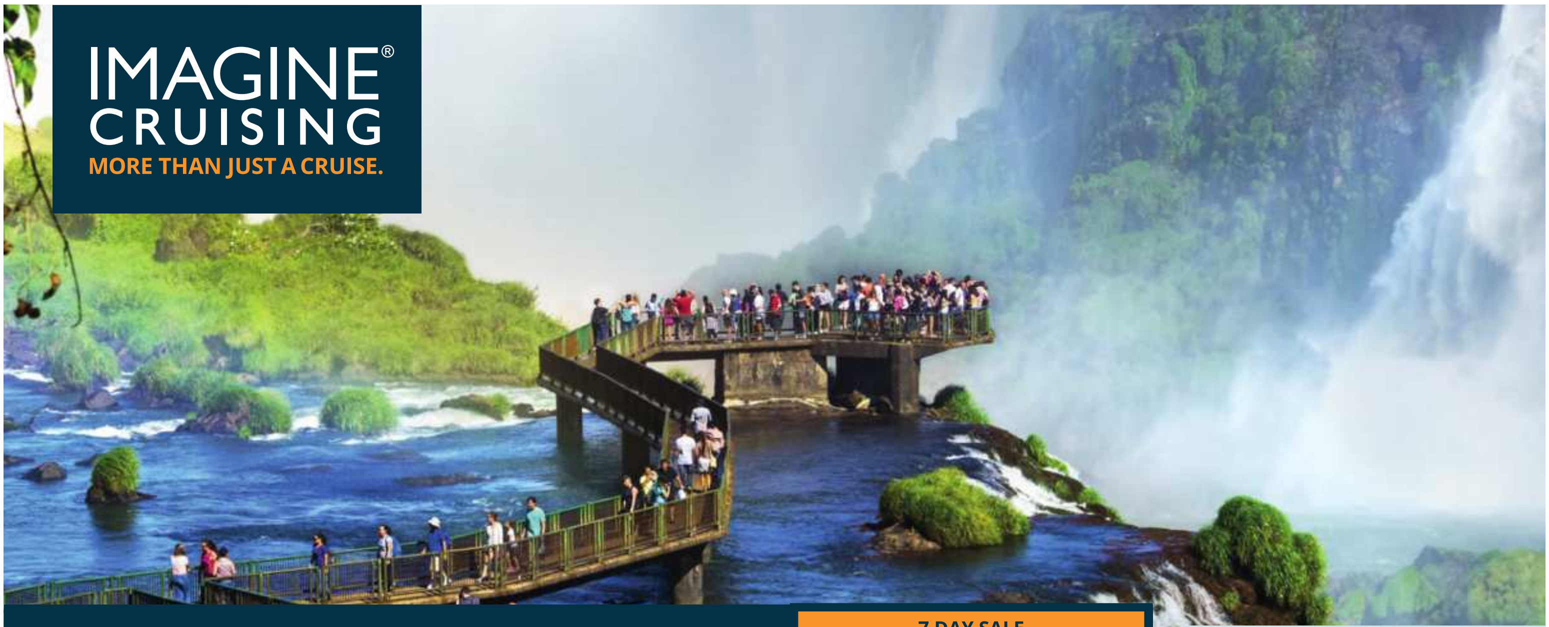
Overnight pilgrimage to the Tiger's Nest Monastery, Bhutan

November brings black-necked cranes to Bhutan's bucolic Phobjikha Valley, and a joyous festival celebrates this with a Crane Dance performed by schoolchildren. Experience that on a small-group walking holiday to this colourful Tibetan Buddhist kingdom along with farmhouse homestays, hot stone baths and an overnight pilgrimage-route hike to the famous Tiger's Nest Monastery, balanced on a Himalayan precipice. This is a trek of a lifetime.
Details 15 nights' B&B from £5,465pp, including all flights, transfers and some extra meals; departing on November 4 (mountainkingdoms.com)

The Atlas mountains for beginners, Morocco

Once Morocco's scorching summers ease, the country's Atlas mountains become tempting for hikers again. For first-timers, a group tour of its southern foothills is a sensible bet. You'll be following an old caravan route between crumbling kasbahs, ksars — fortified settlements, such as the red-clay Ait Ben Haddou — and river valleys, which are pitch black at night. Accommodation ranges from boutique hotels to camping, and there's time to enjoy the delights of Marrakesh too.
Details Seven nights' B&B from £1,199pp, including flights, transport, luggage transfers and most other meals; departs October 7 (walksworldwide.com)

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Gardens by the Bay, Singapore



Rice fields, Bali

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JANUARY 2024

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Fri 19 **Rotterdam, Netherlands**
Cruising River Nieuwe Maas

Mon 22 **Oporto (from Leixoes), Portugal**



Wed 24 **Funchal, Madeira**

Sat 27 **Mindelo, Sao Vicente, Cape Verde**
Known as the cultural capital of Cape Verde, Mindelo on São Vicente is a bustling port city which is home to 80% of the island's inhabitants. With a harbourside location and surrounded by picturesque mountains, Mindelo enjoys both a tropical climate and a vibrant social scene

FEBRUARY 2024

Thu 1 **Recife, Brazil**

Sun 4 - **Rio de Janeiro, Brazil** (overnight)

Mon 5 Rio de Janeiro has much more to offer than sun and sand. You can enjoy breathtaking views from the top of Sugarloaf Mountain, or take a taxi up Corcovado Mountain in the Parque Nacional de Tijuca to view the city's most famous landmark, the 30 metre-high statue of Christ the Redeemer

Thu 8 **Salvador, Brazil**

Thu 15 **Scarborough, Tobago**

Fri 16 **St. George's, Grenada**

Sat 17 **Bridgetown, Barbados**
Barbados' beating heart, Bridgetown is arguably the most idyllic spot in the Caribbean. Lose yourself in the effortless rhythm of this capital city turned UNESCO World Heritage-listed site



Sat 24 **Ponta Delgada, Azores**

Thu 29 **Arrive in London Tilbury**

Dates not mentioned are spent relaxing at sea

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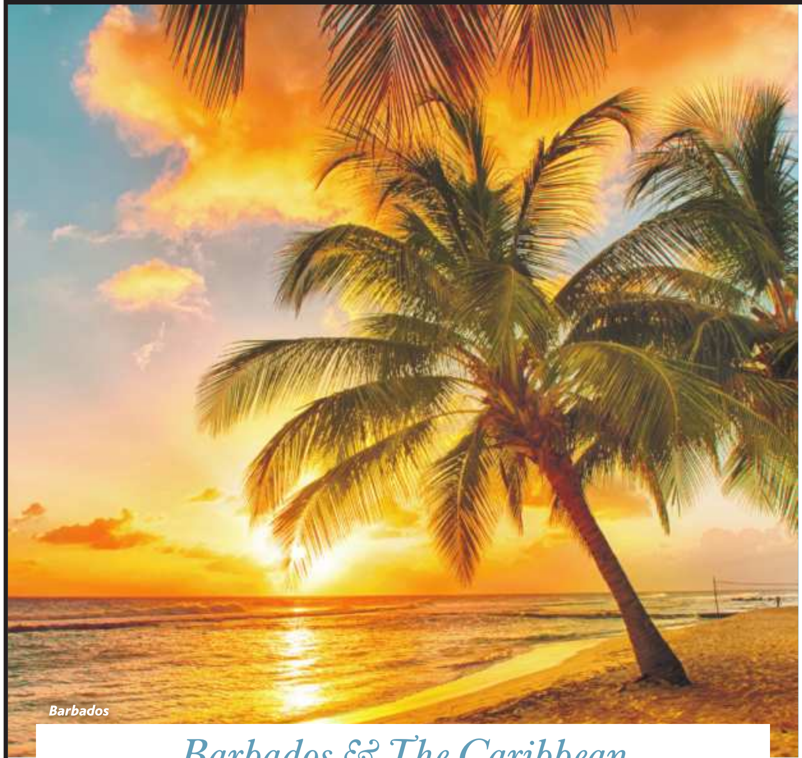
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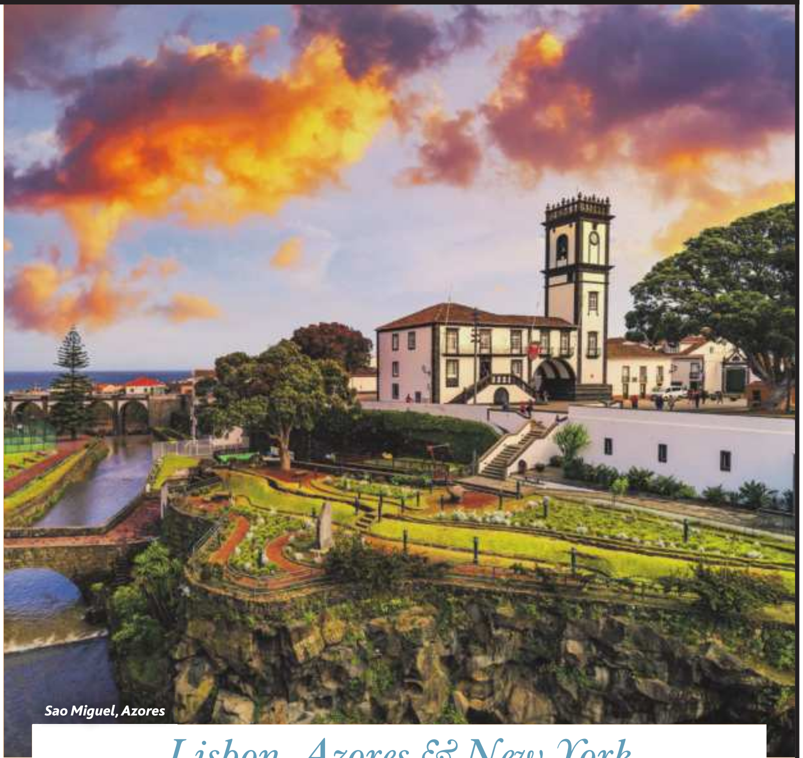
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Day 5 **St Vincent and The Grenadines**

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Day 9 **Curaçao**

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Day 11 **Trinidad and Tobago**

Day 12 **Grenada**

Explore the island's beautiful waterfalls or simply relax on sun-kissed beaches.

Day 13 **Saint Lucia**

Days 14-15 **Fly back to the UK**

Disembark *Silver Shadow* in Barbados and transfer to the airport for your overnight flight home.

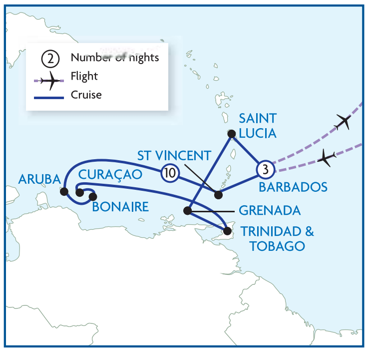
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Leave Lisbon's beautifully tiled streets for the glistening Azores before finishing in bustling NYC.

Day 1 **Lisbon**

Fly into Lisbon, known for the seven hills it spreads across, and its stirring fado music. Lisbon is a pastel-coloured blend of houses and beautiful tile artworks. Wander the cobbled streets, marvelling at the exquisite architecture, take a ride on one of the iconic trams or simply relax in a delightful sun drenched plaza with a glass of local wine.

Day 2 **Board *the* brand new *Silver Nova***

Days 3-4 **Relaxing at sea**

Day 5 **Sao Miguel Island, Azores**

Providing a gorgeous green welcome, Ponta Delgada's shoreline is a reassuring sight, as it emerges into view. Explore beautiful churches and botanical gardens on a city tour or opt to head inland where you can explore Sete Cidades Crater Lakes, Furnas Hot Springs or the Barrosa Mountains.

Days 6-11 **Relaxing at Sea**

Days 12-14 **New York**

Spend one night on board *Silva Nova* in New York before disembarking and spending a further two nights in the Big Apple. Liberally scattered with familiar landmarks, world-leading museums, and with an atmosphere and infectious energy found nowhere else, any visit to this one-of-a-kind cinematic city is a frantic, fascinating feast for the senses.

Days 15-16 **Fly back to the UK**

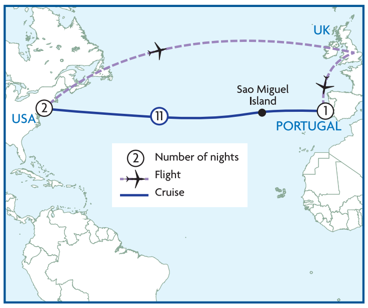
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The easy Greek islands — only a direct flight away

There's still plenty of sun, but the crowds have gone — Dana Facaros on where to go for the best beaches, culture and nightlife

There is nothing quite like the Greek islands when the summer crowds have left but the skies still glow hypnotic blue and the water is so clear that boats cast shadows on the seafloor. The islands are particularly lovely at this time of year, with slightly cooler weather, still-warm seas and — for some — direct flights into October. Thanks to my father being from a Greek island, I've been lucky to visit nearly every year since the days we all piled out of a hot ferry hoping that someone would offer us their spare room for a handful of drachmae. Now getting there is a cinch — when I last flew to Mykonos, I was digging my toes in the sand and sipping my first cocktail within an hour of arriving (it took a couple of days before I realised that my phone was still on airplane mode). Go now when the islands are more peaceful and lounge in the dappled shade all afternoon — the only alarm you'll need is one to remind you not to miss your flight home.

Lefkada

Best for traditional Greece

Lefkada is renowned for windsurfing in the south, spectacular cliff-backed beaches to the west and a clutch of emerald islets off its east coast that make sailing here a joy. For all that, the

A windmill on Zakynthos



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Myconian Korali, Mykonos

rugged, forested isle retains an unspoilt charm, with its family-run tavernas and easygoing attitude. Enjoy it with lovely east-coast sea views from the stylish Crystal Waters Hotel, perched above Nikiana and its beach.

Details Seven nights' B&B from £747pp, including flights, departing on September 24 (jet2holidays.com)

Kefalonia
Best for foodies

Kefalonia has rugged cypress and olive-clad landscapes, beaches galore and vineyards producing the island's Robola wine. Stay at homely Monambeles Villas near Svoronata, only a few minutes' drive from the airport. Surrounded by gardens, the two-bedroom villas share a pretty pool and come with hypnotic views over the mountains and sea. Golden Ai Helis beach and top restaurants are a short walk away.

Details Seven nights' self-catering for two from £1,169pp, including flights, departing on October 14 (olympicholidays.com)

Zakynthos
Best for chic resorts

The Venetians, who once ruled the Ionian islands, loved Zakynthos for its flowery beauty and fertile soil. Today chic resorts line its sugar-soft sands, especially along the northeast coast. Retreat to the adults-only Contessina Suites and Spa at Tsilivi, with its contemporary design, swim-up rooms and staff who anticipate your every wish.

Details Seven nights' B&B from £754pp, including flights, departing on October 14 (jet2holidays.com)

Corfu
Best for nature

Corfu was Shakespeare's inspiration for Prospero's enchanted isle in *The Tempest*, before Gerald Durrell recaptured its charm in *My Family and Other Animals*. Hills covered in cypresses and olive groves tumble down to beaches, tempting coves and idyllic crescents, especially in the northeast. The island's magic is no secret, but you can escape any remaining crowds at San Nikolas Villa in Barbati, under Corfu's highest peak. It has a private pool, striking views and is just a few steps from the beach.

Details Seven nights' self-catering from £2,038pp, including flights and car hire (gicthevillacollection.com)



Rethymno on Crete

Crete
Best for exploring

Crete is more like a continent than an island — one you can visit year round, with mighty mountain ranges, gorges, beautiful beaches and fascinating Minoan archaeological sites. The Venetian-Turkish neoclassical city of Chania is a great base for exploring. You're an hour's drive from Rethymno, with its citadel and flowery lanes, and from hikes into the Samaria Gorge. Two sisters run the charming Doma Hotel in Chania's former British consulate, where rooms are filled with antiques, Cretan memorabilia and heirlooms, just a few steps from the beach.

Details Seven nights' B&B for six from £830pp, including flights and transfers, departing on October 17 (sunvil.co.uk)

Mykonos
Best for nightlife

When pictures of Jackie Kennedy on Mykonos spread around the world in the 1960s, the die was cast: this arid little island with the whitewashed cubist town admired by Le Corbusier would become the boho party hotspot of the Aegean. After dancing the night away recharge your batteries in high style at the Myconian Korali Relais & Châteaux, with its wonderful spa and superb dining, a short hop from Mykonos Town.

Details Seven nights' B&B from £1,002pp, including flights and transfers, departing on October 21 (easyjet.com)

Santorini
Best for romance

With sublime views and the frisson of living on the edge of a deep blue volcanic caldera, Santorini is a contender for most romantic island in the world. Of all the villages built into its fire-blackened cliffs, Oia — in the north — is the most colourful and in pole position for sunsets so beautiful that onlookers often applaud them. Make the five-star Andronis Boutique Hotel your romantic Cycladic bolt hole, with its infinity pools, spa and suites embedded in the cliff.

Details Seven nights' B&B from £2,378pp, including flights, departing on October 9, (thomascook.com)

Kos
Best for ancient ruins

Kos was a rich resort island in ancient times, and its archaeological sites are unique — the Gymnasium, which had a covered running track and heated pool; the luxurious Casa Romana; and the 4th-century-BC Asklepieion, the original wellness centre run by followers of native son Hippocrates. Kos Town's Blue Lagoon Resort is a good place to soak up the autumn sun, and has a heated indoor pool just in case. Rent a bike and explore one of the island's 378 cycle routes.

Details Seven nights' all-inclusive from £696pp, including flights and transfers (tui.co.uk)

Rhodes
Best for families

Southeast Rhodes was badly damaged by wildfires in July, but the north was unaffected and is a great bet for a family holiday, with its long season (spring and autumn breaks are a delight), sandcastle-ready beaches and storybook-worthy sights, including medieval Rhodes Town, built by the Knights of St John. At the Holiday Village Atlantica Rhodes at Kolymbia, on the northeast coast, it's all about fun, with an aerial adventure course and splash park.

Details Seven nights' all-inclusive from £920pp, including flights and transfers (tui.co.uk)

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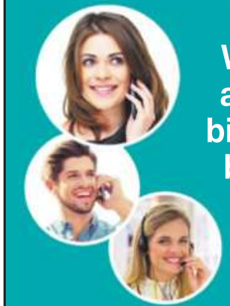
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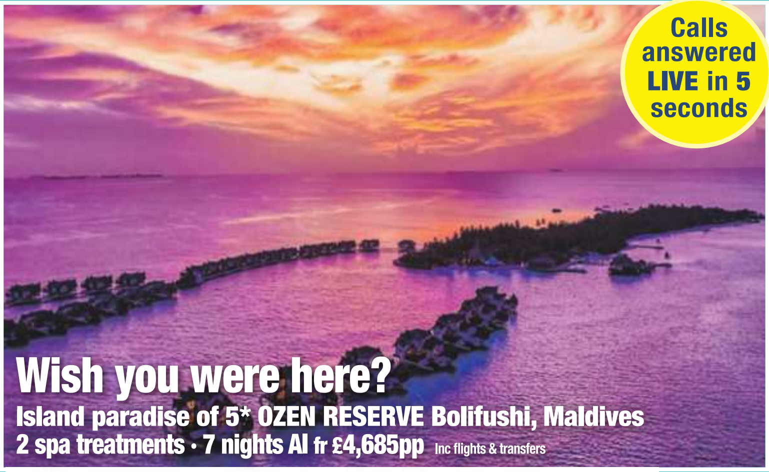
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Greece

Save 15% HB at the 5* Eagles Palace & Spa

This luxury hotel blends beautifully into the stunning island of Halkidiki and affords breathtaking views of the island and the coastline. It has a private golden sand beach, 4 restaurants and fabulous activities for kids.

7 nights fr £679pp Inc flights

Thailand



Save 15% at the 5* Layana Resort & Spa

The award-winning Layana is located on Long Beach on the idyllic island of Koh Lanta in Krabi Province. This luxurious adults-only resort offers peace and tranquillity, warm hospitality and a truly personalised service.

7 nights fr £1,329pp Inc flights

Borneo



Save £150 at the 5* Gaya Island Resort

Discover a sanctuary nestled in the hillside of an ancient rainforest with a stunning outline of Mount Kinabalu on the horizon. Accessible only by boat, this resort features a multitude of activities and a Spa Village.

7 nights fr £1,365pp Inc flights

Dubai

Save 25% half board at the 5* Atlantis The Palm

The only resort in Dubai that is a destination in itself. Feel the rush in the world's largest waterpark - Aquaventure. Discover an underwater world at The Lost Chambers Aquarium or meet the marine mammals at Dolphin Bay & Sea Lion Point.

5 nights fr £1,895pp Inc flights

Miami

Save 10% at 4* Eden Roc Miami Beach

The legendary Eden Roc Miami Beach brings plenty of nostalgic glamour to the modern beachfront resort experience. Three sparkling beachfront pools and an exclusive strip of beach invite you to relax in a fun, tropical setting. With vibrant nightlife and world-famous cultural attractions just minutes away, there's a little bit of everything for everybody here at Eden Roc.

3 nights fr £785pp Inc flights

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Governors' Camp is a luxury tented camp, lying on the banks of the Mara River in the west of the famous Masai Mara Game Reserve. Enjoy 2 nights on full board with game drives included. Then fly to the Indian Ocean for a week at the STORY Seychelles, on the white sand of Beau Vallon Bay. The resort has a natural reef, Sesel spa and health club, and Treetops kid's club.

9 nights fr £3,129pp Inc flights

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For an exclusive getaway, choose the Cove Suites at 5* Blue Waters Resort & Spa, with unrivalled private luxury, captivating views, a glorious infinity pool, superlative dining, Cove Concierge & powder-soft sand.

7 nights fr £3,129pp Inc flights

Barbados

Save 30% AI



Discover this idyllic spot on Barbados' Platinum Coast and be treated to the marvellous combination of an all inclusive beach holiday paired with the personalised service of the boutique 4* Mango Bay Hotel.

7 nights fr £1,795pp Inc flights

The Bahamas

Save 25%



The stunning 5* The Royal at Atlantis, Paradise Island, sprawls along one of the world's most gorgeous white, sandy beaches and features a 14-acre waterscape and a 3 million gallon saltwater habitat.

7 nights fr £2,035pp Inc flights

St Lucia

Save 40% AI

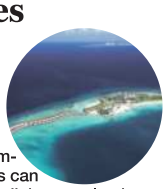


A unique holiday of relaxation and rejuvenation, 5* Stolen Time by Rendezvous is an adults only, all inclusive resort, featuring magnificent tropical gardens, a tranquil lazy river and two miles of beach.

7 nights fr £2,395pp Inc flights

Maldives

Save 25%

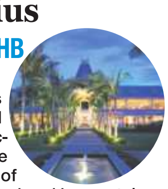


The 4* OBLU XPERIENCE Ailafushi offers a laidback getaway where families and friends can enjoy delicious dining, a selection of activities & adventures all blended in for a truly blissful holiday.

7 nights fr £1,635pp Inc flights

Mauritius

Save £100 HB



The elegant 5* Sugar Beach is a sun-drenched and serene sanctuary along the sheltered bay of Flic-en-Flac, bordered by crystal-line waters, manicured gardens and a picturesque beach.

7 nights fr £1,699pp Inc flights

Seychelles

Save £80

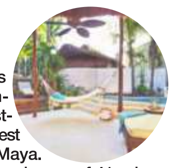


This is Seychelles with a difference. Boundaries are blurred between the 4* Laila Resort and the village, where guests are encouraged to venture out and explore the local markets, villages & jungles.

7 nights fr £1,649pp Inc flights

Mexico

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The 5* Viceroy Riviera Maya is a luxury beachfront resort nestled in the rainforest of the Riviera Maya. Stay in seclusion in one of 41 private villas with private plunge pool, patio and outdoor shower.

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W Dubai Mina Seyahi

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Even the cow bells are mindful

The country's alpine lake district is the ideal rural escape with the clearest water, charming towns and soul-stirring vistas — all only an hour from Salzburg, says Neil Fisher

Up on the Postalm, the second largest high plateau in Europe, my career as an expert mushroom forager briefly looks promising. "Alm" means alpine pasture, and the undulating plateau, spread out like a green carpet, is surrounded by mountain peaks. Essentially its purpose is to be an all-day buffet for the young, docile cows who are the summertime inhabitants. In the winter young, less docile humans come here for skiing.

They are missing out. Why would you want to see this beautiful countryside covered in snow? At the height of summer we have the place to ourselves — that is, us, our guide Anne-Marie and, of course, the cows, their bells tinkling across the pastureland like a live soundtrack to a mindfulness podcast. Free of distraction, attention focused by Anne-Marie's wisdom about the edible alpine plants and flowers around us, I spot a cluster of tempting mushrooms sprouting under a tree.

We were three generations on this summer holiday: my wife and I, our two children (5 years old and 18 months) and my seventysomething parents. The scorching, non-child-friendly temperatures on the Med made us look away from the usual destinations. The brief also had to be nature focused. The Japanese have a word for "forest-bathing", but in the 19th century the Austrians invented "Alpinismus": a romantic attachment to the country's dramatic landscapes. Alpinismus was born here in the Salzkammergut, Austria's lake district.

While the first gentlemen tourists to the Salzkammergut decamped for a full summer, no expense spared, we had to be more cost-conscious. Just as Italy has the agriturismo, Austria promotes its farmstays: self-catering apartments or cottages on working farms.

Families in the Salzkammergut traditionally form expanding units, extending their houses to accommodate new arrivals. The Hinterbergers, our hosts at Hauslhof farm, share their traditional mountain lodge with four generations (my toddler son found a counterpart to stumble around with). Most of their holiday guests take separate cabins on the site, but we stayed in a modern, well laid-out apartment in the main building (with its own entrance and balcony). We had our own kitchen, while farm or otherwise local produce — Austria is big on organic — was dished out for the other holidaymakers on the communal terrace.

A sloping garden with a small playground overlooked the Wolfgangsee, one of the largest and most significant of the 76 lakes that dot this region. The male farmers of the family emerged in the morning in their feathered hats and leather shorts, despite or possibly because of the 28C heat.

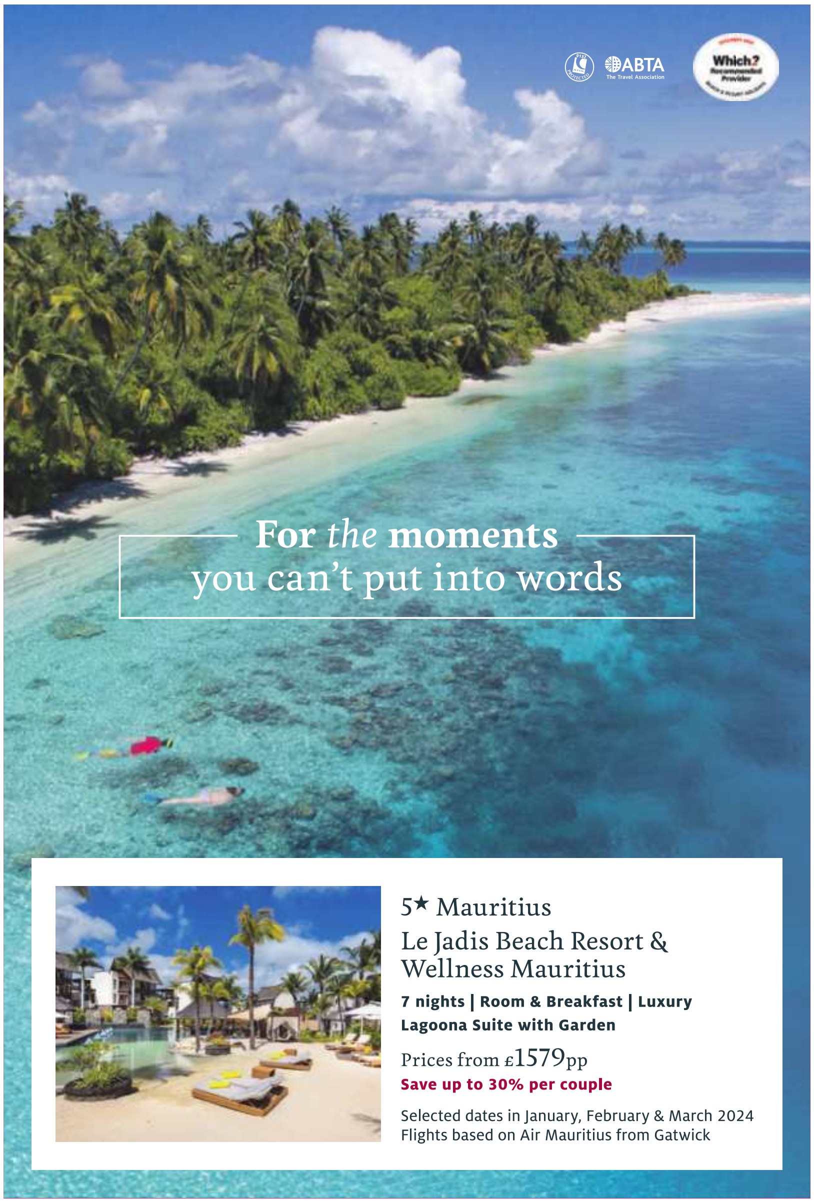
From the farm and into the wilderness… it was a stiff but shady walk uphill for my wife and me to one of the many "jausenstations" (snack huts) that pepper the area, where we had to share a single beer because our dirndled hostess only accepted cash.

The Hinterbergers' cows were up on their own alm, but there was enough fauna at our base to keep my children happy: goats, two miniature ponies named Chibo and Lise, a horse, a rabbit that probably needed a crash diet after ten days being


Hallstatt


Zwölferhorn cable car

overfed by my daughter, and an orphan fawn rescued from the roadside after its mother was killed in a car accident. Her name was Resi ("reh" means deer in German), and she was happy to nuzzle even the muckiest palm. One night, after we had driven back from dinner, the car headlights picked out two badgers frolicking in the fields. A few days into our stay we asked if our daughter could try riding one of the ponies, and the next day a junior Hinterberger was duly dispatched to lead a mildly reluctant Chibo along the path, my daughter gingerly perched on his back. The day



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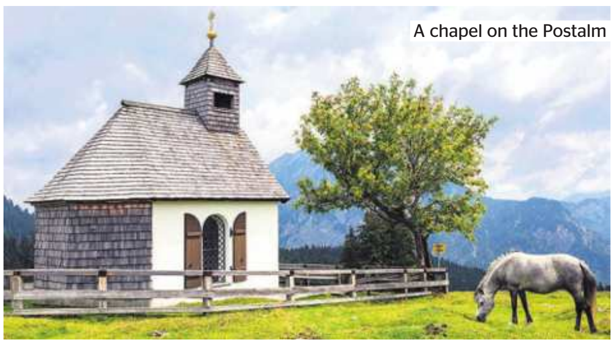
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on my family break to Austria

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A chapel on the Postalm

after she had a go on the less arthritic Lise and gave a more favourable report.

It would be naive to describe the Salzkammergut as off the beaten track. It's Austria's most celebrated (and surely most instagrammed) rural destination, yet barely an hour from Salzburg. Finding accommodation in high summer is a challenge unless you have booked in advance. Last month the locals of Hallstatt, a picturesque town on the Hallstätter See, protested against mass tourism (their town is believed to be the model for Arendelle in Disney's *Frozen*, a blessing/curse that brings the 700 residents 10,000 visitors a day in high season). The main town on the Wolfgangsee, St Wolfgang — our nearest centre — is not as drop-dead pretty, but its raison d'être is tourism and the streets are stuffed full of gingerbread and trinket shops, hotels and restaurants.

The limits on development keep the number of overnight visitors low, however. UK tour operators had a spell of bringing groups to the big lakeside hotels, but they haven't returned after the pandemic. For Brits the area around Salzburg is still overwhelmingly associated with winter sports and *The Sound of Music*, and the Wolfgangsee is terra incognita. Perhaps some would want more nightlife from their lake'n'sun experience, and if so the Wolfgangsee isn't the place for it. The most hyped musical attraction during our stay in the area was a visit by the Vienna Boys' Choir to the local church. There's a strong sense that whether they have a passion for hiking, biking, paragliding, paddleboarding or pony riding, everyone is here to top up their batteries without being disturbed by anyone else.

To drink in all the region has to offer you have to go up into the mountains or down into the lakes. St Wolfgang is proud of the Schafbergbahn, its historic cog railway which takes you up to the Schafberg summit (1,780m) from a shiny new station (a return, and, let's face it, you're not going to walk back, is a pricey £40 for an adult). It was a hot, long and not altogether comfortable journey, and the cramped summit isn't great for small children, but the views over several of the lakes are spectacular. Supposedly one waiter who worked a summer at one of the summit restaurants would get home to his village by hang-gliding down the mountain. This route not being open to us, we return on the train and, full of cheese dumpling, my son falls asleep on my lap.

A better experience on the same theme is a 20-minute drive round the lake to the slightly prettier and grander town of St Gilgen. Here you can buy a cheap hop-on ticket for the fast cable car up to the summit of the Zwölferhorn (1,500m), where good, broad paths take you in all directions (stamina allowing), people spread out and there's another feast of gorgeous views. When we paused at another café/hut for restorative blackcurrant juices and coffees a group of musicians began a ländler at the next table. The music critic in me took this as evidence of the innate Austrian desire to strike up waltzes even at the top of mountains, so it was with some disappointment that I later found out these players are paid to go and entertain summer visitors. Still, they did a handsome job, certainly with enough wrong notes to suggest authenticity.

And the lake! When you live in a country where the water companies are allowed to flush sewage into our rivers (looking at you, Thérèse Coffey), it's almost surreal to be told that the water quality of the Wolfgangsee is monitored as a standard for what comes out of Austrian taps. Hence the strict controls over who can own petrol-powered motorboats (only a few dozen residents), and the crystal clear water that you do sometimes just end up sipping as you swim.

Our only regret was that because so much of the coastline is privately owned you have to hunt out the good public beaches (curiously unmarked on maps). The best have jetty access into the lake and shallow shorelines where curious creatures like my son can fill a basket with pebbles. If you are concerned about safety, other lakes have more organised beaches with lifeguards, such as the Alpenseebad on the Mondsee. Locals and visitors alike to the Wolfgangsee seem to want to keep the water as undisturbed as possible. Perhaps that's to ensure the happiest experience for the two sorts of fish that swim around in it — trout and saibling (char) — both of which are served in all the lakeside restaurants and are absolutely delicious. In August the usual side-order is an equally buttery bowl of eierschwammerl (chanterelles).



Which takes me back to those mushrooms. I'm told that Austrian foragers keep the location of gourmet fungi to themselves — or at least in one family — to avoid interlopers discovering their stash. It's a serious business in more ways than one. In August three people in Victoria, Australia, died after eating suspected death caps in a beef wellington.

Alas, my glamorous-looking specimen will not be making it to a menu. No sooner have we congratulated ourselves on the find than a professional-looking chap in lederhosen marches past us with a basket groaning with mushrooms. He takes one look at my mushroom, rasps "nicht essbar" (not edible) and carries on.

Rescued from possible toadstool poisoning, it looks as if we will be eating in a restaurant again.

Need to know

Neil Fisher was a guest of the Wolfgangsee tourism board (wolfgangsee.salzkammergut.at), SalzburgerLand Tourismus (salzburgerland.com) and the Austrian National Tourist Office (austria.info). Self-catering apartments for two to five people from £273 (hauslhof.com). Fly or take the train to Salzburg

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Chamonix apartments
Pierre et Vacances still has availability for October half-term at La Ginabelle Premium, a collection of cosy,


Hotel La Majun, La Villa

traditional alpine apartments in pedestrianised Chamonix. Each is a homely blend of wood and soft colours, there's a heated indoor pool and a children's computer-game area on site, and you also get a €30 credit towards mountain bike hire. Dominated by Mont Blanc, the surrounding terrain also offers rafting, canyoning and hiking adventures before the ski season kicks in.
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Details Half-board family suite from £562 (lamajun.it). Fly to Innsbruck
Richard Mellor


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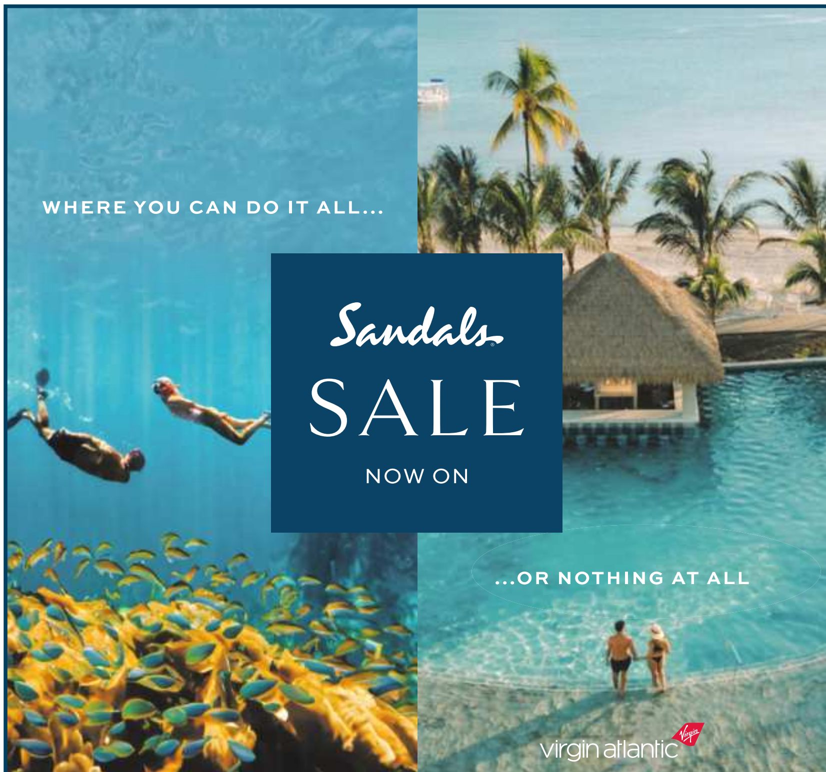
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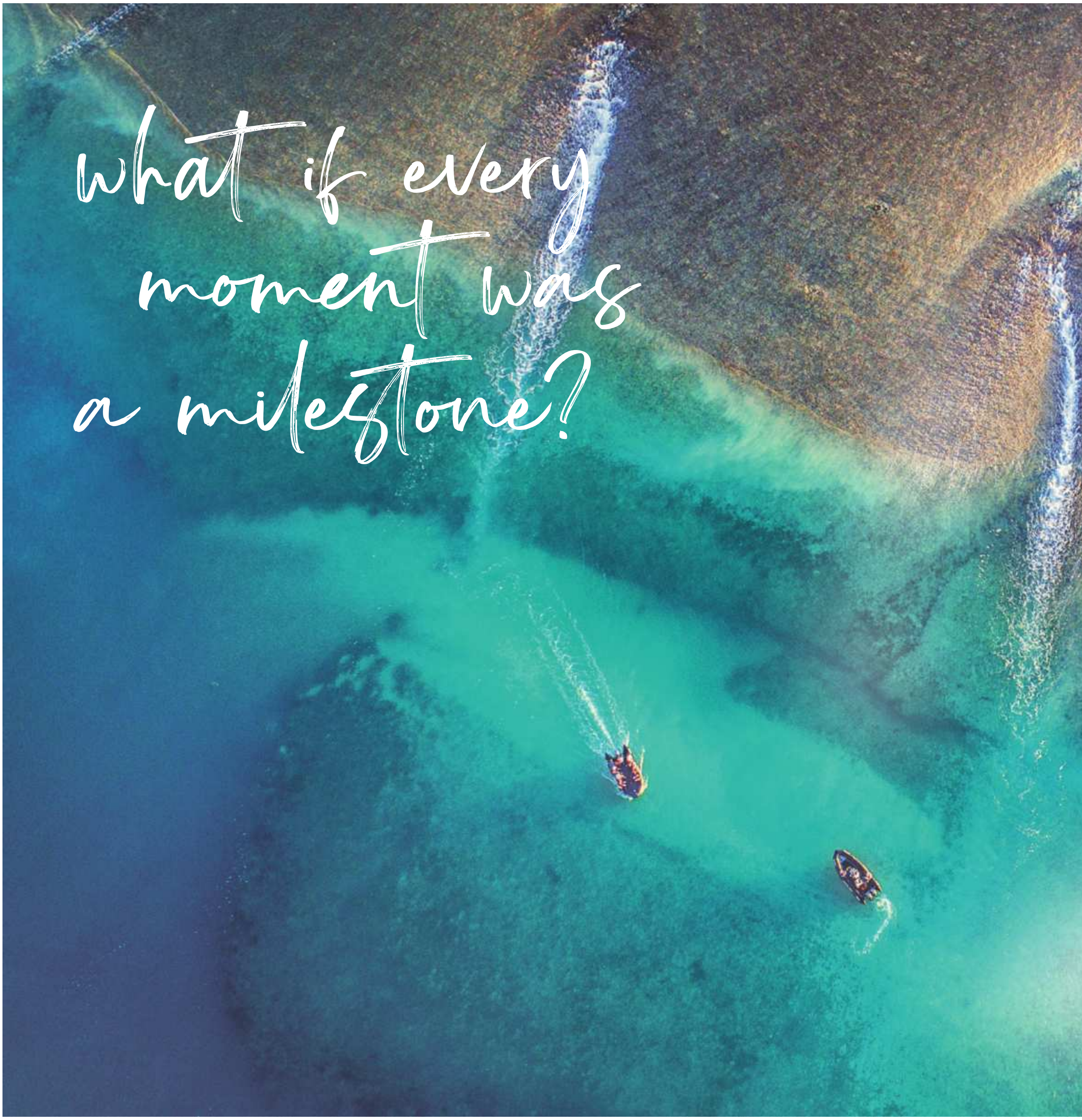
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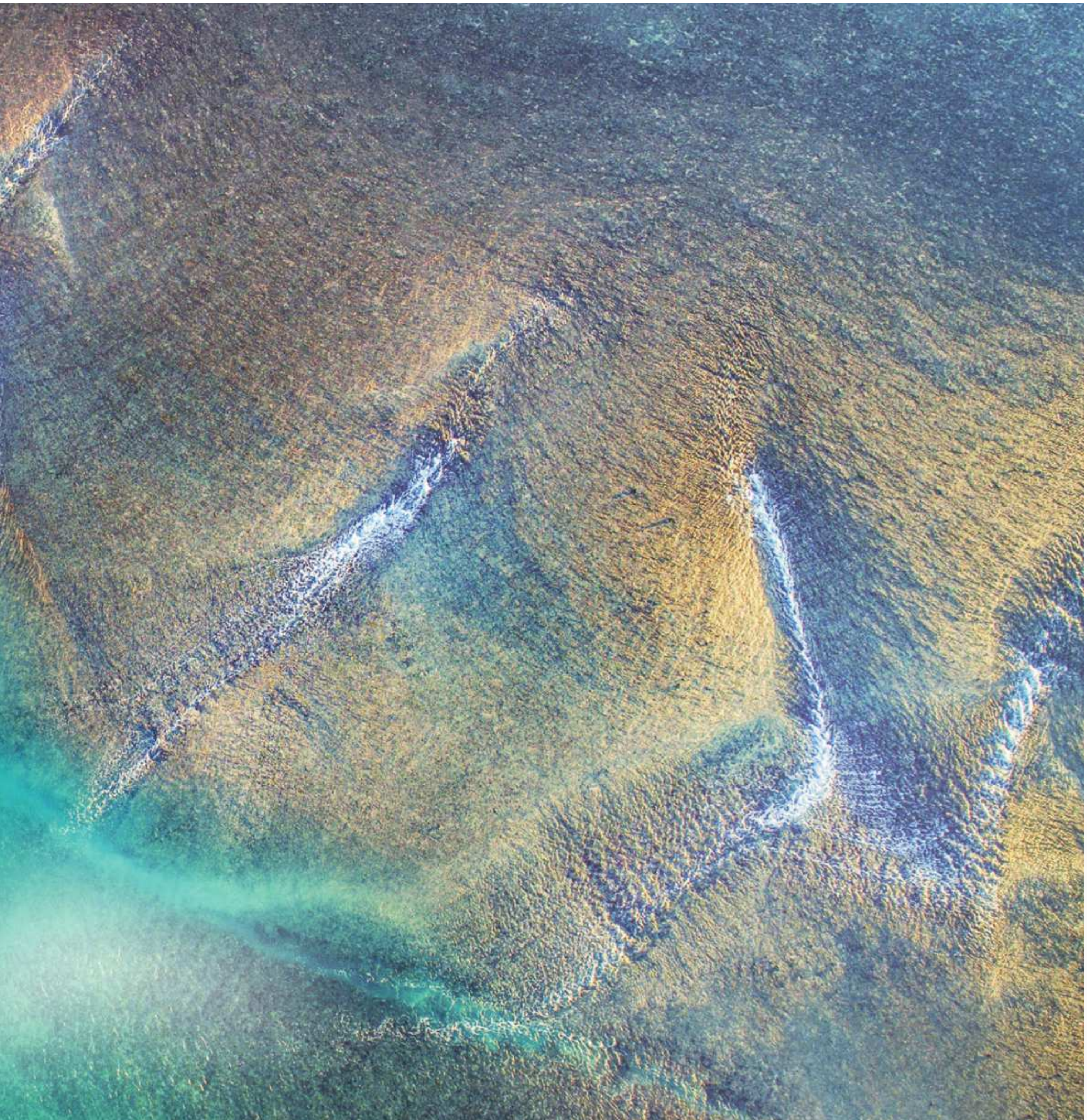
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Mon 9 — **Bilbao, Spain** (arrive late am)

Tue 10 — **La Coruña, Spain**

Wed 11 — **Oporto (from Leixões), Portugal**

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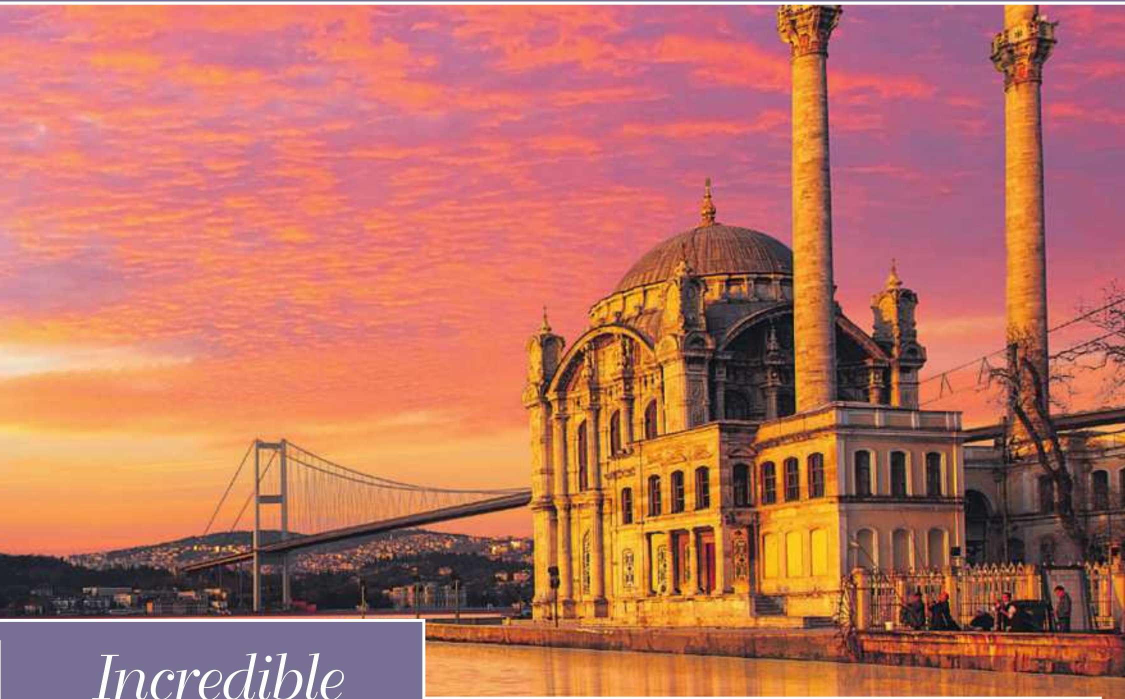
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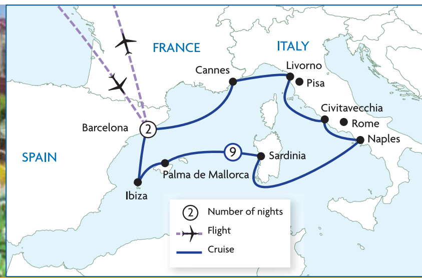
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Late deals

Catch some autumn sun at a cool price

Drift along the Douro Valley or walk to Machu Picchu with this week's pick of the best bargains. By Richard Mellor

Is some autumn sunshine in order? If so, our expert has found trips to Spain, Turkey and the Italian lakes that fit the bill. Alternatively, snap up a Caribbean trip in advance, or go leaf-peeping in the Capital Region of the USA.

UK

Cool Cornish rentals

Between Polzeath and Padstow on northern Cornwall's coast, family-owned Highcliffe is a farm turned holiday-home estate. Spanning many dog-friendly options, its three to five-bedroom houses are cheerfully contemporary inside. The wider site also hosts a slick new yoga studio, a gym and two tennis courts, while the secret, shingle-and-sand Greenaway Beach is less than ten minutes' walk. Discounts of 15 per cent are available on September stays, as are free Chapter Organic toiletries worth £100. Using the code "Summer15", three nights' self-catering for six now begins at £788 (highcliffecornwall.co.uk).

Glamping getaways

Running until midnight on Tuesday, Experience Freedom's autumn sale offers savings of £20 a night on weeknights at all of the glamping brand's eight locations from September 12 until November 30. You could book a Kentish yurt, a Lake District hideaway or a spacious cabin near sandy Cayton Bay in North Yorkshire. At one of the last — which feature en suite bedrooms, free wi-fi, outdoor decks and barbecues — two nights' self-catering for four costs from £188 (experiencefreedom.co.uk).

Country hotel near Bath

Amid Somerset's hedgerow-happy Frome Valley, 15 minutes' drive south of Bath, Homewood has recently opened two new, rustic-style spa suites — each has its own barrel sauna, hot tub and plunge pool. To celebrate, the Georgian country house hotel is granting half-price stays on all suites between October 1-19 if you book this weekend. Beyond the spa itself, which uses GAIA products, other reasons to visit include an indoor pool, art-filled grounds and inventive Mediterranean food. B&B suites now cost from £245 (homewoodbath.co.uk).

EUROPE

Luxury Budapest

Opened near St Stephen's Basilica in July, the high-end W Budapest is W Hotels' first eastern European property. To mark the occasion, it's slashing 20 per cent off bookings of three nights or longer. Autumn in the thermal-watered Hungarian capital promises truffles and baby melons in its Central Market Hall, while your base includes a pan-Asian concept restaurant, a speakeasy, a spa and 151 contemporary bedrooms. Using the booking code UK8, three nights' room-only is from £549pp (marriott.com). Fly or take the train to Budapest.

Douro cruise

November in Portugal's Douro Valley means misty ribbons lingering along the river and terraced vineyards turning shades of crimson and mustard as the season's new wines take shape. It's magical, and you can experience it all on an immersive week with Emerald Cruises that also lays on tile-painting lessons and dinner at a quinta. Departing from Porto on November 25 aboard the intimate, pool-equipped Radiance, seven nights' full board costs from £2,245pp including flight credits (emeraldcruises.co.uk).

French horse riding

France will be in Rugby World Cup mode for most of this month but you might struggle to remember while riding round its still-wild Camargue. Astride small, agile white horses, guests of Le Mas de Peint — a terracotta-tiled Provençal farmhouse hotel on a cattle ranch and rice farm — can gallop off to the sprawling area's salty, flamingo-lined lagoons, before indulging in a pool, a spa and southern-style food. From September 18 to October 26, get £180pp off three nights' B&B low-season cost from £798pp, including flights and private transfers (kirkerholidays.com).

Half-board in Spain

Ever heard of the Sierra de Gredos? West of Madrid, this region of mountains, lakes, waterfalls, villages, orchards and plains is ripe for exploration. Try Headwater's flexible trip: as well as following riverside tracks, you can spend days sightseeing in Avila and Toledo. Book a half-board supplement in 2023 and you'll also get a free upgrade to a suite at the 21-room Hotel El Milano Real, which has a garden and a restaurant serving local plates with a Japanese twist. Seven nights' half-board starts from £1,611pp, including flights and car hire (headwater.com).



EMICRISTEA/GETTY IMAGES

The Alcazar in Toledo



Marrakesh's Djemaa el-Fna



Le Mas de Peint, Camargue

Italian lakes

In Lake Garda's eponymous town, Hotel Villa Madrina features 34 bedrooms with antique furniture and views of the water, plus peaceful greenery, a pool, a contemporary spa and regional Italian cuisine. All in all, it's a tranquil base from which to explore this genteel Italian lake, with a host of boat trips, vineyards and viewpoints close by. Saving £250pp and setting off on September 30, seven nights' half-board costs from £1,076pp, including guided walks (inghams.co.uk)

MID AND LONG HAUL

All-inclusive Morocco

Temperatures in the thirties are quite common in Marrakesh in October, making it a great time to laze around the large swimming pool at the Sol Oasis. North of the city centre — with a free shuttle bus taking you to its souks and snake charmers — the resort has a palatial, ornate feel and also lays on three dining options (international, local, Spanish), cocktails and a gym. Seven nights' all-inclusive in October costs from £810pp, including flights (britishairways.com).

Peru's Inca Trail

"Few romances," the American explorer Hiram Bingham III wrote, "can ever surpass that of the granite citadel on top of the beetling precipices of Machu Picchu." Such wonderment concludes the four-day Inca Trail, a camping-based trek via mountainous cloud forests and other prehistoric ruins. And the operator Explore! is offering 15 per cent discounts on three Inca Trail small-group trips if booked by September 19. An eight-night tour departing on January 12 or 19 costs from £1,114pp, including B&B, permits and some other meals (explore.co.uk). Fly to Cusco.

US leaf-peeping

With eastern America being so famous for its autumn colours, deals at this time are as rare as four-leaf clovers. But here's one: 10 per cent off a Capital Region fly-drive. Kicking off with a chance to see the White House in Washington DC, the itinerary then follows a scenic byway through the Blue Ridge Mountains and includes a visit to Virginia's wine-making Loudoun County. Between October 1 and November 15, ten nights' room-only now costs from £1,640pp, including flights and car hire; book by the end of the month (americaasyoulikeit.com).

A week in Tel Aviv

Tel Aviv is where Israel meets the Med. The seductive seaside city has languid beach clubs, hip boutiques, orange trees and rooftop bars, but also perfumed spice markets, synagogues and superb Middle Eastern food. The flowery, ancient district of Jaffa is another pull, as is an array of Bauhaus architecture. Stay at the urbane Montefiore 16 boutique hotel, located close to the sea and posh Rothschild Boulevard. Departing on September 30, five nights' B&B costs from £665pp, including flights (tui.co.uk).

Luxury Guatemala

This is Latin America at its most thrilling

Jaguars, Maya ruins, cloud forests and chic new hotels with volcano views make Guatemala even more tempting, says Claire Boobbyer



The volcano, at more than 12,000ft, is a cinematic backdrop to my breakfast. I'm drinking rich, earthy coffee, grown on cone-shaped Agua at Villa Bokeh, a new Relais & Châteaux hotel in the outskirts of Antigua — a city in Guatemala, not the Caribbean island. The white hacienda-style building with a terrace, enveloped by six acres of gardens blooming with magnolias, cypresses and date palms overlooking a lagoon, is just a few minutes' drive from the small city.

I first came to Guatemala 25 years ago as a backpacker. Luxury hotels and Guatemala weren't stablemates then, but over the past ten years stylish places to stay have emerged in Antigua, and around the sublime crater lake, Atitlan, whose shore is home to indigenous Maya villages.

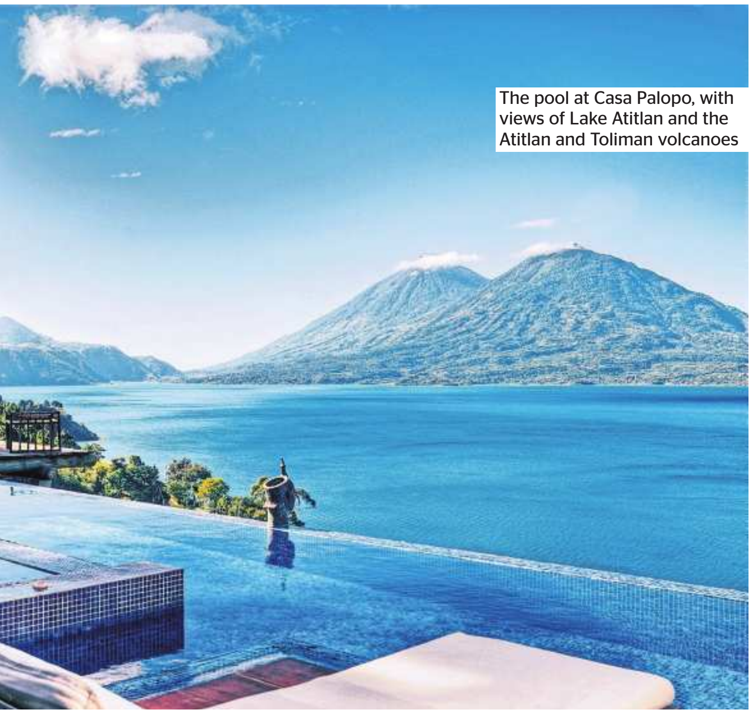
Guatemala is overshadowed by its near neighbour Costa Rica, but it shouldn't be. While it doesn't have a direct flight from the UK, it is (in my opinion) more beautiful with a greater number of active volcanoes and ancient jungle ruins, and a vibrant indigenous culture with very deep roots.

Bordered by Mexico, Belize, El Salvador and Honduras, it's twice the size of Costa Rica and a touch bigger than Iceland. More than 30 volcanoes, three of them recently active, rise along an east-west highland spine. The highlands — el Altiplano — are full of indigenous towns, festivals and traditional markets. Northeast of the capital, Guatemala City, are the 300m-long turquoise pools of Semuc Champey, cloud forests harbouring the national bird — the long-tailed emerald green quetzal — and the scattered ruins of the ancient Maya civilisation. The Maya built cities of stone, and towering pyramid temples to their rulers who were lauded in life and in death. On stelae and wooden lintels they carved in exquisite detail their battle stories, lives and legends. Today, these jungle ruins are home to jaguars, howler monkeys and keel-billed toucans.

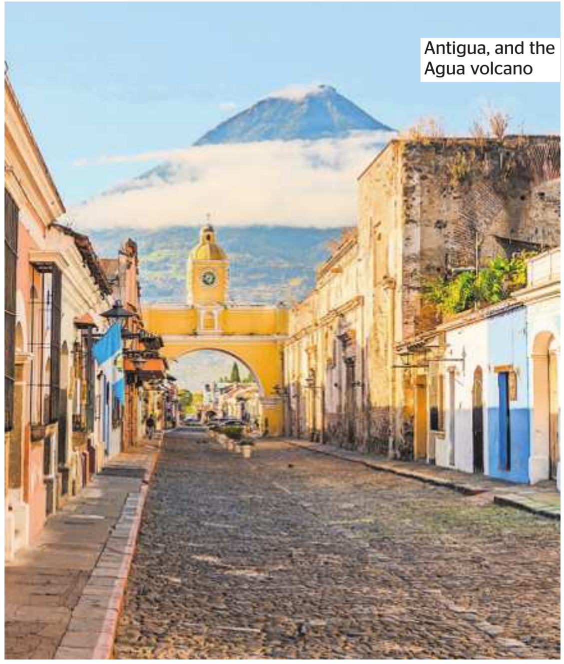
Volatility has fashioned Guatemala — natural and human. It was embroiled in a 36-year civil war until 1996. The Spanish founded the city now known as Antigua in 1543. As the Very Noble and Very Loyal City of St James of the Knights of Guatemala, the city was rich in convents, churches and mansions. As the seat of colonial power, it ruled the whole of Central America until an earthquake one afternoon in July 1773. Officials ordered locals to resettle in what is now Guatemala City, an hour's drive away.



AL ARGUETA/ALAMY



The pool at Casa Palopo, with views of Lake Atitlan and the Atitlan and Toliman volcanoes



Antigua, and the Agua volcano

But many *panza verde* (green belly) residents, who had thrived in the avocado and coffee-filled Panchoy Valley surrounding Antigua, refused to abandon the city. Today, its graceful, arrested development, in the shadow of three volcanoes (two dormant), is protected by Unesco.

It's easy to be captivated by Antigua's bougainvillea-covered villas. And to wander through its cloistered patios, toppled arches and wrecked but still handsome baroque churches, such as the fantastic white-stuccoed yellow La Merced.

It's a great place to shop for textiles too. I find exceptional handwoven cloth at Colibri; at Nim Po't, a one-stop emporium, I browse second-hand Maya clothing (the prettily patterned headdresses of Aguacatan are the standout); and at Luna Zorro Studio I pick up handwoven clothes from a light-flooded, glass-box store.

Villa Bokeh is a green retreat, its gardens and pool a balm. I'm staying in the Onyx suite, which is bold in black and white with ikat-dyed fabric covering the wall. "I fell in love with the feeling of the house," Claudia Bosch, who runs Villa Bokeh, tells me, "and with the idea of transforming something that was so abandoned and needed so much love." In that she has succeeded.

Claudia and her daughter spent the pandemic designing the 15-room property and sprucing up the gardens with year-round flowering plants that nod to Guatemala's "Land of Eternal Spring" moniker .

The hotel is filled with contemporary art, and corn — the national staple — is a theme. Take *Los Tres Tiempos* (*The Three Times*) by Jorge Chavarría: antique-framed photo "portraits" of corn cobs.

I ask Claudia about these works over dinner. "One of the gods of the ancient Maya was made from corn," she says. "Guatemalans eat corn in every shape and form and *Tres Tiempos* is about us eating freshly made corn tortillas three times a day — breakfast, lunch and dinner."

Our dinner, by the chef Marcos Sáenz (who worked at the two-Michelin-starred Mugaritz in northern Spain), is suitably corn-based: sea bass on a maize mousse and dessert combining corn pudding, popcorn ice cream and caramelised popcorn.

To further immerse guests in local culture, Villa Bokeh offers workshops. I take one on natural dyes at Luna Zorro Studio, in the grounds of an ancient coffee farm. I also visit the new National Museum of Art (inside the former headquarters of the Spanish governors), where the collection spans 3,000 years.

In San Antonio Aguas Calientes, a Maya Kaqchikel town five miles from Antigua, the weaver and guide Astrid Guaran shows me round the family weaving co-operative. Her mother, Carolina, is sitting on a low stool weaving a table runner using a backstrap loom. Each of the country's 22 Maya communities wear their own *traje* (woven traditional outfit).

Men barely wear the traditional trajes now, Astrid says, but 90 per cent of women still do. Though persuading young women is harder. "Girls used to prepare to be housewives but now they want to study and travel. But when they marry, they must know how to weave. They spend five hours a day for a year weaving a *tzute* [shawl], for their mother-in-law."

On the day of the wedding, the bride's dress is secondary — all eyes are on the tzute's artistry and colour. The gift is a means of linking the new bride with her husband's family and honouring the new mother-in-law.

My next stop is Guatemala's weaving heartland, three hours west of Antigua, centred on immense Lake Atitlan. A mega-volcano blew its top 85,000 years ago, leaving a crater lake; soon after that a trio of new volcanoes nudged up round its shores.

I'm staying in Casa Palopo, Guatemala's only other Relais & Châteaux hotel. It's an idyllic hideaway, perched high above the water in the town of Santa Caterina Palopo. My suite, in pale ochre, opens on to a deep blue terrace with volcano views.

I'm mesmerised by their symmetry above the jade green lake — and by the visiting hummingbirds. Each afternoon, the *xocomil*, the wind that (legend has it) carries away sin, irritates the lake, turning it slate and sending clouds scudding. During dinners, also overseen by Chef Sáenz, I rather wish the xocomil might carry away my overindulgence.

The hotel answers my prayer the next day in the form of Marcelo, an *ajq'ij* (a Kaqchikel Maya priest), wearing striped red trousers and a *xerca*, a wool waist apron. Come to cleanse my soul and clear my mind during a ceremony in the hotel grounds, he has a cauldron containing sugar, ceremonial cacao, cinnamon, incense, sesame seeds and boiled eggs. The flames dance, the seeds crackle and the eggs explode, meaning our message — thanking Mother Nature for the cleansing — is being sent to the gods.

I find out more about communing with the spirit world when I fly one hour north to the island town of Flores in the Peten, gateway to the numerous sites of Guatemala's ancient Maya heartland. The roar of a howler monkey bounces around the central acropolis of Tikal. A grey stepped pyramid towers above me. This Temple of the Great Jaguar, dating from the late 7th century, houses the tomb of Lord Cacao, a calendar-obsessed Maya ruler.

The ancient Maya were avid stargazers and went to war according to the movement of the planets. The subsequent "star wars" battles embroiled Tikal as rival city states fought for supremacy. Some 1,500 years later, Guatemala's power struggles have moved south. Its politics is more diverting than an episode of *House of Cards*: one of this year's presidential candidates, Sandra Torres, divorced her husband Alvaro Colom (president from 2008-2012) so she could run.

It's a thrilling, fascinating country — in every way. Time to move over, Costa Rica.





Villa Bokeh, Antigua

Need to know

Claire Boobbyer was a guest of Black Tomato, which offers ten nights' B&B from £7,150pp, including transfers (blacktomato.com). Fly to Guatemala City via Spain, Mexico or the US

Three more holidays to Guatemala

Best time to go
The dry season is November to April, when daytime temperatures range from 23-32C in the lowlands. In the mountainous Altiplano region west of Antigua, nights are cooler.

Getting around
Car hire is possible with an international driving licence but most people rely on buses, especially privately owned "chicken" buses that link small towns and villages.

TRIPS TO BOOK

Shamans and boats
This guided tour packs in plenty of culture and nature. Activities include the chance to take part in a shamanic ritual in San Andres Itzapa, bathing in volcanic springs, travelling on chicken buses, visiting markets and villages, and a boat trip on Lake Atitlan, in a group of up to 16 people.
Details Five nights' B&B from £864pp, including activities and some meals (intrepidtravel.com). Fly to Guatemala City

Mountain trekking
There are seven peaks to conquer on this expedition-style trip that mixes hotel stays with camping. Literal highlights include scaling Tajumulco — at 4,220m, Central America's highest mountain — plus sunrise views from Volcan Toliman and seeing flaming lava spill from Volcan Fuego at night, as well as trail-walking through coffee plantations, forests and jungles.
Details Fourteen nights' full board from £2,875pp, including flights and all activities (keadventure.com)

Guatemala and beyond
Compare Guatemala with its Central American neighbours on this trip that starts in the lively El Barrio area of Antigua before travelling to the Mayan ruins at Copan in Honduras. In El Salvador, you'll visit beach towns before heading to Nicaragua, where there are community-focused homestays, swimming or optional mountain climbs. Your final stop is in Costa Rica, with cloud forests and coffee plantations.
Details Sixteen nights' room-only from £1,179pp, including some meals (gadventures.com). Fly to Guatemala City

Easter trip
This private trip is timed to coincide with the Christian celebrations, when streets in Antigua are carpeted with flowers, and men and women parade with life-size religious statues. The itinerary moves to Lake Atitlan and Chichicastenango, where Maya culture mingles with Catholicism, followed by a flight to Flores, the site of Tikal and the jungles of northern Guatemala. Accommodation is in boutique hotels and lodges, including Villa Maya beside Lake Peten.
Details Seven nights' B&B from £2,110pp, including internal flights. Departs on March 27 (journeylatinamerica.com). Fly to Guatemala City

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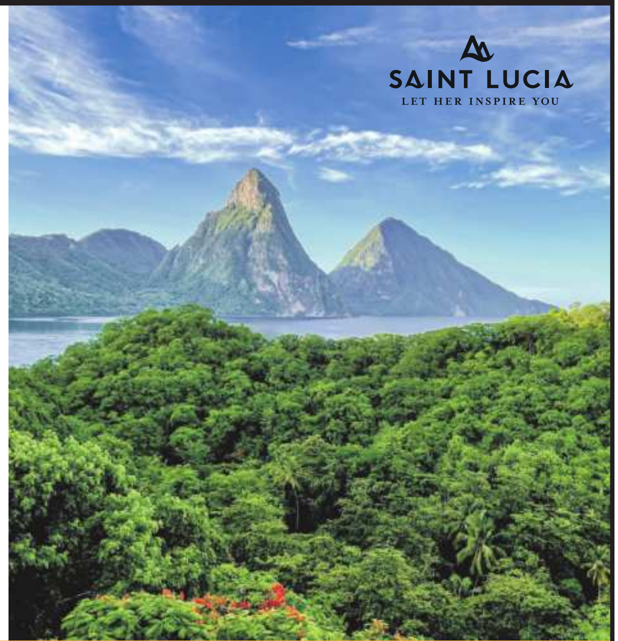
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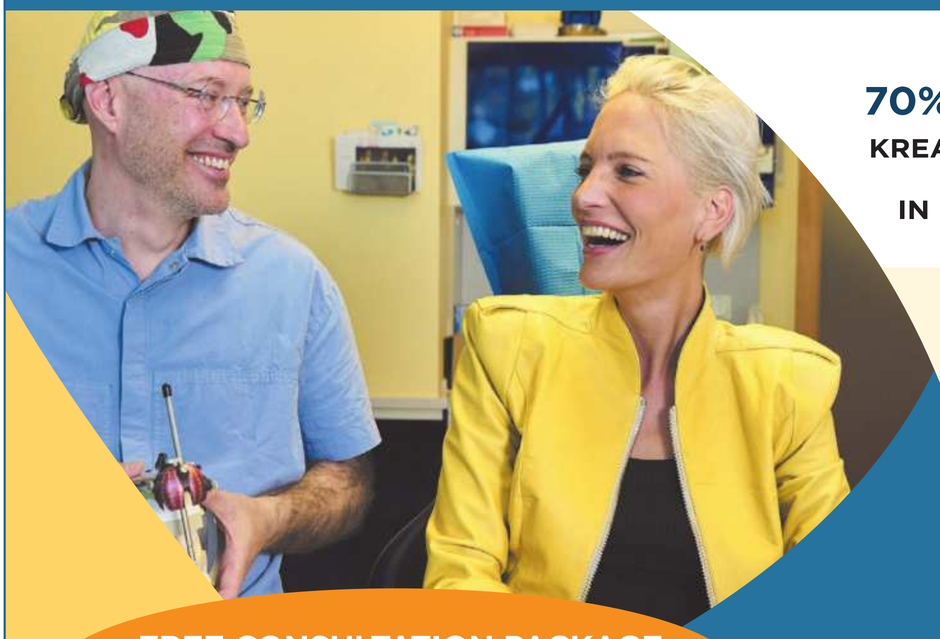
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The Times hotel guide

Ashlack Hall

Grizebeck, Cumbria

Rooms and suites 7/10
Food and drink 9/10
What else is there? 9/10
Where is it? 9/10
Overall score 9/10

GEMMA MCKELL



Ashlack Hall



The bridal suite

'Who likes green beans so much we have to fly them from Kenya?" wonders Bob Keegan of restaurant-with-rooms Ashlack Hall. Global supply chains have long bothered him. So when the Ballymaloe-trained chef set up shop in his family's 17th-century house, he and his partner Jenna Freak went the other way. Much of what guests eat comes from their 500-acre hill farm. Most of the rest is grown nearby, and the experience of staying here is so deeply connected to the leafy Cumbrian valley you'll feel yourself subconsciously putting down roots.

Rooms and suites
Ashlack walks a fine line between a humble farmhouse and a country mansion — as overdressed as a shepherd in silk breeches, and just as memorable. Downstairs, the guest wing features a parlour of baronial grandeur, alongside a suite of much lower-slung rooms. Several are decorated with soft, Titian-inspired portraits by Bob's talented sister, VJ Keegan. Meanwhile, the three big bedrooms upstairs (bookable through Airbnb) are bright, white and, in places, properly eccentric. The West Wing mezzanine suite is equipped with two half-naked nymphs, supporting a giant lintel. Nearby, the bridal suite features an elegant four-poster. All three offer comfort and peace rather than five-star luxury. At this price (from £99 B&B) that's exactly what you'd hope for.

Food and drink
Dinner is a six-course, £65, bring-your-own-bottle affair, made exceptional not just by the quality of the cooking — but the unvarnished introductions. "We killed our first bullock last week," was Bob's entrée to a series of uncommonly good dishes, which made use of everything: liver pâté with syrup, beef skirt with romesco sauce, and a deep-fried cheek that was as comforting as a warm pair of socks.

Sean Newsom was a guest of Ashlack Hall, which has B&B doubles from £99 a night (ashlack.com)

What else does it offer?
There's no spa or gym. But you've got everything you need to enrich your encounter with south Cumbria. Turn right at the front door, and you can wander up a track towards Heathwaite Fell. Turn left for a wander down to the banks of the Grize Beck.

Where is it?
Five minutes' drive from the farm lies the Duddon Mosses nature reserve. Half an hour further on, the serene and graceful River Esk coils past Ravenglass. This is an intriguing and undervisited part of the Lake District.
Sean Newsom

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Plaza de Espana, Seville. Below: harbour seal, Svalbard, Norway

Q I've arranged a tour of Andalusia, flying to Malaga and hiring a car to take in Cadiz, Seville and Granada. The problem is the car hire: as a wheelchair user I need an automatic saloon with hand controls and very few car-hire firms offer hand controls as an extra, despite equalities legislation. Hertz does but has now told me it's not available in Malaga. Do any other car-hire providers offer hand controls as an option for disabled drivers? And if not, how should I go about booking accessible train travel in Spain between Malaga, Cadiz and Granada? Can you help save this dream holiday?
Andrew Miller

A I'm sorry to say that I've been unable to find another car-hire company in Malaga offering hand controls — but don't despair, you can take the train instead. Spanish Renfe trains have designated spaces for wheelchair users called "Plazas H", and while you can't book them via UK train companies, you can book them on the Renfe website (renfe.com). Bookings for wheelchair spaces have to be made at least 12 hours before the train departs and you should arrive at the station at least 30 minutes before the whistle blows.

Q I failed to get my dog's rabies vaccination in time so we can't go on our planned trip to France this month and it will have to be plan B. Can you recommend any comfortable, dog-friendly hotels in Devon or Cornwall with walks from the door?
Sharon Baxter

A Soar Mill Cove Hotel, on the South West Coast Path near Salcombe in Devon, is particularly welcoming to dogs. Its ground-floor bedrooms are all dog-friendly with patio doors opening directly onto the gardens, and you can also dine with your dog in the main restaurant (tables are limited and get booked up quickly).



B&B in a double garden room starts at about £250 this month, and a dog stay costs £15 per night (soarmillcove.co.uk). Or there's the Gurnard's Head, an old coaching inn on the South West Coast Path between St Ives and St Just at Cornwall's tip, where Fido can stay free of charge and sit with you while you tuck into dishes such as lamb loin and spiced potato fritter. Small B&B doubles start at £155 (gurnardshead.co.uk).

Q We drive to Heathrow once or twice a year and use a meet-and-greet service or park and stay at the Sofitel Hotel at Terminal 5. Can you tell us if we will now have to pay the Ulez charge to get there and again to leave?
Philip Ainsworth

A The short answer is yes — if your car doesn't meet the emission standards that will allow you to be exempt from the charge, then entering the airport will incur a £12.50 fee and you'll have to pay the same again when you return from your holiday. There's no way around it. You can pay up to 90 days in advance or you have up until midnight on the third day after your journey (tfl.gov.uk).

Q We're very interested in travelling to and around Svalbard in Norway next year with a focus on the wildlife (especially whales and polar bears) and the scenery. We'd prefer to cruise on a small ship to maximise our time on a Zodiac inflatable boat, and kayaking and camping would be of interest but are not essential. We have a budget of about £10,000pp and are overwhelmed by the choice of trips out there. Could you recommend a suitable company to travel with?
Jillian Bland

A The expedition cruise specialist Polar Routes has a huge selection of Arctic trips and one that fits the bill is its 11-night Best of Svalbard itinerary next July on the comfortable, all-suite Sea Spirit, which only carries up to 114 passengers. The plan is to make a full circumnavigation (weather permitting) of Spitsbergen, the largest island of the Svalbard archipelago, and there should be enough sea ice around to see polar bears and possibly watch them stalking their prey too. Also en route is Northwest Spitsbergen National Park, a prime spot for viewing various kinds of whales and Arctic seals along with migratory Arctic seabirds. The ship has a fleet of Zodiacs and offers kayaking as well as a hot tub on the top deck for watching the wildlife while sipping a G&T. The trip starts at £9,986pp for a double cabin on the main deck and includes flights from Oslo to Longyearbyen and a night's B&B in Oslo, but not flights from the UK (polarroutes.co.uk).

Contact us

If you have a gripe, suggestion or question relating to your holidays, please email **traveldoctor@thetimes.co.uk**

Don't put up with this

BA refund battle after flight cancelled

I feel I've been robbed of £1,040 by British Airways. I have three teenage nephews and to celebrate the end of exams I arranged to take them to New York for a three-day trip in mid-July. The day before the flight, I got an email from BA welcoming me to our flight the next day and I checked us all in online. But at 2am BA sent an email and a text cancelling the flight. When I got up at 7.30am I saw this and phoned BA, telling the agent we'd accept any replacement flight to New York. She said she could see a potential flight with United leaving at 10am. I explained that was completely impossible but she said there was nothing else and I'd have to accept a refund. I then rang again and another agent finally fixed us up with a Virgin flight the following morning but we lost a day of our trip. I put in a claim for compensation of £520pp in the belief we had tickets for a flight of more than 3,500km that was cancelled with less than seven days' notice and arrived more than four hours after our expected time (20 hours in fact). BA first replied that we'd arrived within four hours of our scheduled arrival time, so we were only entitled to 50 per cent of the compensation (£1,040). When I disputed this, BA then referenced the United flight saying that I'd declined this and therefore its position was unchanged. I was astonished. I wrote back, detailing all the timings, but BA then replied to say the cancellation notification had been given in good time and the option offered was feasible. Can you help?
Melanie Hiorns

It was completely unreasonable of BA to insist that it gave you sufficient notice of the cancellation and that it was possible to make that 10am United flight when it really wasn't — although it accepted your claim in principle, it seemed determined to shortchange you. After I waded in, however, you got an emollient email from BA customer services saying it understood "how strongly" you felt about your compensation and that it was happy to offer you and your party £520 per passenger because you were delayed on arrival at New York by more than four hours.



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Day 2 **Bordeaux – Saint-Émilion, France**
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Day 3 **Libourne – Fort Medoc, France ★Wine tasting included★**
★**Included Excursion**[×]**:** Enjoy a guided tour of Libourne. Alternatively, explore the exclusive estate of Château Siaurac with a wine tasting, or view the eclectic city of Bergerac (B, L, D)

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Day 5 **Cadillac, France**
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Day 6 **Cadillac, France ★Wine tasting included★**
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Day 7 **Bordeaux, France**
★**Included Excursion**[×]**:** Shop with a Chef at a local food market or enjoy a guided tour of Bordeaux, or if you're feeling more active, you may choose to cycle the historic regions of the city. Back on board, enjoy a tasting of fresh oysters delivered straight from the waters of Arcachon Bay
★**Exclusive Experience**[×]**:** This evening you will be given after-hours access to Les Bassins de Lumierès this evening, Bordeaux's former submarine base which has been transformed into an impressive art installation (B, L, D)

Day 8 **Bordeaux, France**
★**Included Excursion**[×]**:** Journey to Arcachon and join a walking tour including a visit to the local markets, or stay in Bordeaux and visit the Moon Harbour Whisky distillery. Alternatively, climb Dune du Pilat, Europe's largest sand dune (B, L, D)

Day 9 **Bourg, France**
★**Included Excursion**[×]**:** Discover the Carriages Museum in the enchanting Bourg Castle, or spend a full day exploring Cognac. Afterwards, enjoy a tasting at the acclaimed property of Rémy Martin (B, L, D)

Day 10 **Blaye – Bordeaux, France**
★**Included Excursion**[×]**:** Enjoy a guided walking tour, or take a more active walk through the Citadel of Blaye. Or, explore the stunning beauty of the fairytale Château de La Roche Courbon on a guided tour. Alternatively, join a 30km roundtrip cycle along the Captain's Road (B, L, D)



Day 11 **Bordeaux, France**
After breakfast, disembark and transfer to the airport for your return flight to London[>] (B)

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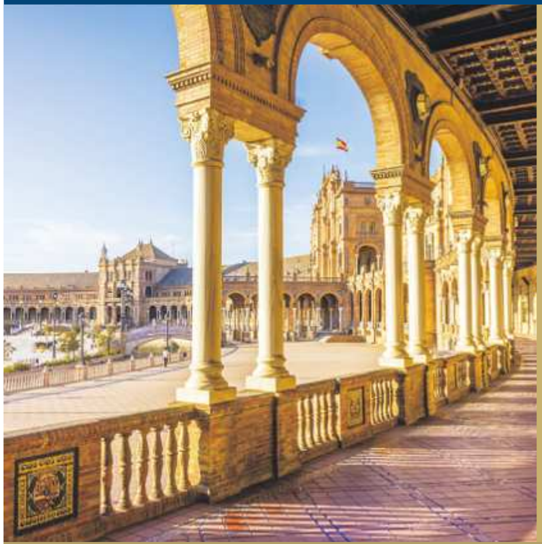
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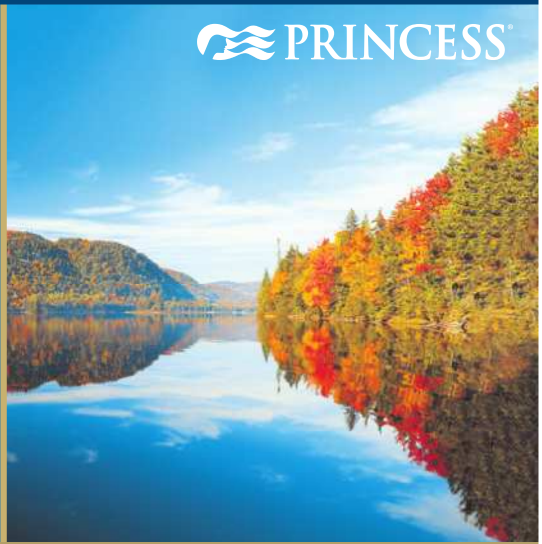
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saturday review



7-DAY TV & RADIO GUIDE page 19



Laura Freeman
Why Coco Chanel is an icon of the Parisian avant-garde



All doom and gloom

How we invented goth

by Lol Tolhurst of the Cure

art | books | theatre | film | music | television | what's on | puzzles


THE MULTI-AWARD WINNING MUSICAL RETURNS TO LONDON
'I DOUBT I'LL EVER SEE A BETTER PRODUCTION IN MY LIFETIME'
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Hugo Rifkind on TV



Jesse Plemons and Elizabeth Olsen in Love & Death

This is the last swing of the axe for true crime

Last week, a poll of frontline Anglican clergy revealed that most of them think that Britain is no longer a Christian country. Hardly anybody seemed to care, I suppose because if you don't go to church, then you're hardly likely to mind awfully that other people aren't going either.

Still, the instinct is to think that a population that gives up on faith must be losing something. A moral grounding, perhaps. Although then I saw *Love & Death*, on ITVX, in which a diligent churchgoing lady called Candy first has an affair, then kills somebody with an axe.

She does not do these things, please note, because she goes to church. She also, though, doesn't not do them because she goes to church. Her churchgoing, one way or another, is simply not germane. It's just a thing she does. It's Texas, it's the 1980s, everybody goes to church. According to this, she was even in the choir. Still, the axe. Maybe she wasn't listening.

Anyway, the telly. Elizabeth Olsen plays Candy Montgomery, a woman who was actually acquitted of murdering her lover's wife, even though she hit her with the axe 41 times. I'm sorry if that's a spoiler (she doesn't do it for ages), but this is history. Also, there are scenes with her in the shower covered in blood; you must wonder. The lover in question, the distractingly named Al Gore, is played by Jesse Plemons, who is brilliant, but not a pretty man. Candy, though, has the hots for him, mainly because of how he smells.

For a while, Candy and Al discuss having an affair without actually doing so, sometimes plotting pros and cons on a noticeboard, in what comes across as the least sexy foreplay ever. Then, finally, they get down to it. Apparently it's quite good. Al, though, is still in love with his troubled wife, Betty (Lily Rabe), so it is always destined to end. Then it does. Then, the axe.

Writing this, I appear to have adopted a jaunty tone, perhaps unfitting for a horrible, real-life axe death. That's not my fault, though, because *Love & Death* does too. Until the killing, it could actually be about the community; the strange, buttoned-up brittleness of it. Candy is a diligent housewife, to the extent that she even packs lunch in Tupperware boxes to take to meet Al in a motel. Even the accents feel like armour. In life, everybody is playing a role. Candy's problem, I suppose, is that she isn't sure what her role ought to be. The sexual liberation of the 1960s and 1970s has clearly left an aspirational impact. You sense that she wants an affair in much the same way she might have wanted a dishwasher.

Much of this is reminiscent of *Fargo*, particularly the second season where Plemons plays a butcher married to a character played by Kirsten Dunst. His character in *Love & Death* is not much like that one — he's a bit blank here — but Olsen's is an awful lot like Dunst's. She has the same scary steel beneath the blow-dry. But why?

There are lots of strange things about *Love & Death*. One of them is that the story of Betty Gore's killing (self-defence, decided the court) was actually made into another drama series barely five minutes ago, *Candy*, starring Jessica Biel. The other is the huge ensemble cast and the effort that has gone into the world-building, but for purposes I can't quite figure out. Sometimes it is savagely funny, such as the moment in the first episode where Betty, who is keen to get pregnant, says, "Be sure to emit as you propulse forward!" while they're doing the deed. That's Betty who would in real life later be killed by an axe, though. So I have my issues.

Altogether, I suppose, *Love & Death* is trying to do two things. First, it is riding the weary old donkey of the true crime genre. Second, in a bid to raise itself above that, it's aiming at social commentary; the people, the church, the world. With only one episode to go, though, I'm still not sure what this message is supposed to be. Probably I should mention that it's written by David E Kelley, who wrote *Big Little Lies*, and there are enough similarities for fans. I don't know, though. It's OK. It should be great. It isn't. Or, to put that another way, there's a reason why it's only on ITVX.

Love & Death
ITVX

The Lovers
Sky

Storyville: Blue Box
BBC4

***The Lovers* on Sky also starts with two** people debating whether they should have an affair. Must be something in the water. Nobody gets killed in this one, though. But somebody does try to kill themselves. Man, telly is bleak. And this is a sitcom.

That plot point aside, it's actually pretty jolly. Johnny Flynn plays Seamus O'Hannigan, a political TV anchor and wally. Think Peston or Marr, but younger, prettier and far more plagued by an entirely undeserved ego. To be honest, I can't think of a direct parallel in British media, which I suppose may be the nicest thing anyone has said about British media for years. That said, I don't watch GB News.

O'Hannigan, though, oozes BBC. Lazily woke, but hypocritical with it, he of course lives in Islington. Heading into work one day, he's informed that his show has been relocated to Belfast. His producer expects excitement, given his Irish descent, but he's never been there before. On his first piece to camera he wibbles about the Troubles, which causes him to be chased by a mob. He winds up in a back garden, where the depressed supermarket worker Janet (Roisin Gallagher) is about to kill herself with a shotgun. But she doesn't.

> **The jaunty tone is perhaps unfitting for a horrible, real-life murder**



If that sounds convoluted, you ain't seen nothing yet. Try not to worry about that, though, because Flynn is great and Gallagher is just superb. Janet is mesmerised by Seamus, as he is by her. Seamus also has a girlfriend, destined to end up in Belfast as a surprise. Cue a farce that has more holes than a string vest, none of which I minded because it's all done with charm. The best jokes are about his self-importance and her incredulity, her high-stakes existence on the minimum wage and his low-stakes life in the media bubble. Three episodes in, and my main incredulity is that Seamus manages to hold down such a high-profile job despite thus far showing no sign whatsoever that he could possibly be any good at it. I must track down his agent.

Finally, *Storyville: Blue Box* was a devastating history of Jewish settlement in the Middle East that, I think, didn't put a foot wrong. The young film-maker Michal Weits had always known of her great-grandfather Yosef as a national hero and "the father of Israel's forests" for his work to turn the desert green. Only in adulthood did she learn that he was also known as "the architect of transfer". For decades he had been the brains behind the huge displacement of the people who would come to be known as Palestinians.

Yosef Weits arrived in Palestine as a young man in 1910 and got straight to work crafting new land. By the 1930s, he was in charge of the Jewish National Fund, via which Jews around the world would donate money in blue boxes to buy Arab lands. The sellers, though, tended to be rich absentee landlords, certainly not the people who would then be evicted. "A voice of conscience screamed within me," he wrote, but he got over it. After the war of 1948, he masterminded the resettlement and greenification of lands abandoned by fleeing refugees, explicitly so that they couldn't come back.

This was the story of Israel's founding. Had it not happened there would be no Jewish homeland, and you will find similar stories, and worse, in every corner of the world and every time, from former Yugoslavia to the Highland Clearances. Yosef was also not an absolute villain, haranguing the Israeli government until his dying day over a failure to see those evicted compensated or resettled.

His great-granddaughter has her own anxieties, knowing full well how much all this flies in the face of the stories about itself that Israel likes to tell.

The best thing about *Blue Box*, though, was the interviews with the rest of Weits's family. Spanning generations, they showed you how views had evolved. For the younger ones, all of this had to be studied, faced and owned. For the older ones, nothing bad had happened anyway. The most fascinating, and conflicted, were the ones in the middle. The theme there was that it was a time of unique, frightening challenges, and it's only now that she lives in relative safety that she has the ability to look back and disapprove. "I'm not comfortable with you doing this," said one. "Michal, I don't want to be a part of this." How unflinching and brilliant to keep him in. Although Friday night dinner might be a bit fraught.

cover story

‘We were the essence of a melancholy spirit’ — my life in goth

In an extract from his new book, Goth: A History, the Cure co-founder Lol Tolhurst explains how the band kick-started a whole new genre



August 16, 1977, nighttime. I am in a darkened bedroom in my hometown of Crawley, listening to the radio in the late-night gloom with a girl called the Raven. She has long, straight black hair and all black clothes. I am 18 years old.

The Raven turns the radio’s tuning knob, trying to find something in the airless room to listen to. A crackle of static and a breathless voice eerily intones: “ The king is dead. Elvis Presley, the king of rock and roll, died tonight in Memphis, Tennessee.”

To us, Memphis might as well have been the moon. It was that far from our experience of growing up in the ever-present doom of postwar Britain. We knew Elvis’s death meant something, but what? A changing of the guard? A way forward? Elvis’s journey may have come to an end, but mine was just beginning. Together with my friends Robert Smith and Michael Dempsey, we started on the path to recording the Cure’s first album, *Three Imaginary Boys*.

The songs were sparse and angular, somewhere between punk and pop, but the title track provided an indication of where the band was headed. Its dark lyric of longing and shadow came from a dream I had that haunted me for days. Robert perfectly melded the words with his guitar and melancholy vocal suspended on the minimalist framework of my spartan drums and Michael’s melodic pulse. I think we knew it was the right way for us even before we really understood it. That year among the books I read were Camus’s *The Stranger*, Plath’s *The Bell Jar*, and Sartre’s *Nausea*. They all spoke to something darker within me, but also something more beautiful, and it inspired my playing. All of us channelled the pensive yearning of our souls into the music we were making that summer of ’77 and discovered the blueprint for the Cure’s oeuvre.

We had seen the disease. The Cure was inevitable.





Lol Tolhurst and, above, his Cure bandmate Robert Smith on stage in 1985

Did we realise what we were on to at the end of the Seventies? We did not. In fact, we resisted it. Despite our passionate insistence that the Cure was not a goth group, the Cure was very much a goth group. We were like the famous quote by Groucho Marx and we didn’t want to belong to any club that would accept us as members. We were also against the idea of following anything or anybody. That was the raison d’être for our third single, *Jumping Someone Else’s Train*, which was specifically against joining any bandwagons that happened to be passing by at the time. We were very serious young men and wary of being pigeonholed by our many critics who didn’t care for our dark music. Yet notwithstanding that idea we became the fertile ground on which the movement flourished.

Everything the Cure did between 1980 and 1984 became hallmarks of this elusive subculture. Call it the enigma of post-punk. Gloomy action glimpsed at a distance in a mushroom cloud of teased black hair. Consider the songs from what many of our most diehard fans regard as our three early dark albums, our “goth phase,” if you will: *Seventeen Seconds*, *Faith* and *Pornography*. They remain the foundation for not just a new kind of music, but a way of being in the world. The only thing we lacked was a name for it, but that came soon enough. My investigation into this led me to understand the subculture in a deeper way. This was the occasion for a startling epiphany: it’s almost unheard of in modern music for something so amorphous to have endured for so long.

The Cure did not have a particular style; rather, we were the essence of a melancholy spirit. That’s what struck a chord with our fans — not just in dreary old England, but around the world, where people perceived the view to be just as dim and grim as we did. It guided us on our adventure to the other side of our looking-glass future. We’d seen the futility of existence in Britain’s long postwar malaise, and we clamoured for something more.

Paradoxically, goth is often portrayed in a comical way by the media. It probably needs to be so to make it overtly two-dimensional and easily digestible for those who will never comprehend it. As with punk before it, if you can identify the main components, then you can précis the understanding of what it is.

Critics of punk rock saw the spiky hair and angry lyrics and assumed that’s what punk was all about, missing the point entirely. The choices by early punks were directed by a nonconformist impulse to go against the grain of society. That’s what the punk movement was about, not just the music they made or the clothes they wore.

As a young punk on the outskirts of London, I also understood it to be many other things: a credo, a posture, a two-minute manifesto I could wave in the face of my fear to banish uncertainty and despair, and to give me hope in a dark and diminished Britain. Our detractors never understood that, but the dark-haired boys and girls did. The Raven knew it deep in her bones. That otherworldly beauty made sure we never forgot it.

Descartes’s famous phrase *cogito, ergo sum* — I think, therefore I am — has led Western man to equate his identity with his mind instead of with his whole organism. I think we can equate the origins of goth, and its close cousin post-punk, with the quest to find what’s beyond the Cartesian mode of thought. If punk was pure, instinctual nihilism, goth searched for meaning — even if we didn’t quite realise it back then. Its sources varied. They were not always music. Literature, cinema and other visual art inspired us. The comic book version has goths sleeping in coffins and bats flying about — too trite and easy, I’d say (although I know a man in Portland that does indeed sleep like that). There’s a

How to be more goth — the critics’ guide



The album

Pornography by the Cure (1982)

The Cure’s claustrophobic masterpiece is the event horizon of goth. And not just because after its release at least one Robert Smith clone, complete with red lipstick and bird’s nest hair, was to be found hanging around the churchyard of every town in Britain. Made when the band were on the brink of collapse, it brings together the movement’s key characteristics of doomy introspection and romantic alienation, all wrapped up in an ephemeral haze of sound. The NME called it “tiresomely self-analytical”. What could be more goth than that?

Will Hodgkinson

The painting

The Nightmare by Henry Fuseli (1781)

A room full of shadows, a palely troubled woman, a sinister incubus, that staring mare — when the Swiss artist Henry Fuseli first exhibited *The Nightmare* in London in 1782, he could have had no idea of its afterlife. Was it a tale of erotic infatuation, a manifestation of the unconscious long before Freud came up with the phrase or just a creepy fever dream? Nearly 250 years on, and housed in the Detroit Institute of Arts, it remains the epitome of gothic imagination.

Laura Freeman

The play

Frankenstein (2011)

Goths with a fogeyish bent can always revisit one of the founding texts of gothic literature by streaming the director Danny Boyle and the writer Nick Dear’s audacious reworking of the story of Frankenstein, first staged at the National in 2011, and now available on the National Theatre at Home platform. Benedict Cumberbatch and Jonny Lee Miller alternated in the roles of scientist and creature (although it’s the version with Cumberbatch as the former that is online). Hammer horror it ain’t.

Clive Davis

ntathome.com

The ballet

Giselle

In the first half of the 19th century, Parisians went gaga for ghosts. Cursed spirits were

COVER: PAUL COX/LFI/PHOTOSHOT. BELOW: ROSS MARINO ARCHIVE/MEDIAPUNCH/ALAMY; GETTY IMAGES


The Cure in 1987 with Lol Tolhurst at far left and Robert Smith centre


Vincent Price, Barbara Steele and John Keer in The Pit and the Pendulum

flocking across the stage in opera and ballet, normally wearing dresses fetching enough that their legs could be admired as well as their pallor. The ultimate goth parade of the era is surely *Giselle*, in which a chorus of zombie jilted brides try to dance our no-good hero Albrecht to death. At the last minute he's saved by the shade of the girl whom he betrayed. The *Twilight* saga did nothing nearly as good.
Neil Fisher
Giselle, London Coliseum, January 11-21, ballet.org.uk

The film
The Pit and the Pendulum
(1961)
Vincent Price, Edgar Allen Poe and a castle with its own torture chamber — that must be a gothic full house. Roger Corman's horror, one of several Poe adaptations he directed, is a tale of madness, mistaken identity and harpsichords playing in the night. Then there's that pendulum, fitted with a razor-sharp blade and swinging lower and lower . . .
Ed Potton
Prime Video, YouTube

duality at the heart of goth that's beautiful and human and unearthly all at the same time, which assures its continued relevance today. There are obvious connections with Byron and Poe and other roots macabre, but I think that is just the externalisation of the impulse that drove goth.

Most thinking and feeling teens in the UK after the first explosion of punk felt liberated from a desperate survival mode, thinking that had existed in Britain since the end of the Second World War. Punk came and kicked down the doors and strangely let in the light so the black heart of something like goth could exist. It showed a whole generation that anything was possible, and it could be closer to the dark impulse, that anxious parent of the soul, that shell-shocked teens kept under cover. Goth and post-punk allowed us as teenage boys and girls to reveal our dreads and desires, bubbling under the intense surface. So where are the roots, where are the seeds we grew from?

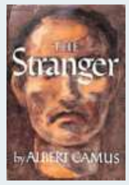
Goth is not really a subculture, I've come to understand. It's a way to understand the world. It's the essence of a deeper metaphysical journey. If you live in England, it's all around you, especially in London. It's in the Victorian buildings of old London town, in beautiful mystical gothic palaces like Strawberry Hill. It's in Westminster Abbey, the Valhalla of British heroes: a large gothic abbey church, a thousand years old. It's further out in the Kent countryside at Canterbury Cathedral. It's in every downpour of constant rain and gloomy, grey skies. It's in the dark alleys and foggy Thames banks. In the walls of ancient pubs and still-cobbled Dickensian streets. It is, in fact, everywhere. We just had to locate its meaning.

***Goth: A History* by Lol Tolhurst is published by Quercus, £25, on Sep 21. Buy at timesbookshop.co.uk or call 020 3176 2935. Discount for Times+ members**

From Albert Camus to Anne Sexton: Lol Tolhurst's goth reading list



The Stranger
by Albert Camus
(1942)



I had seen the books of Sartre and Camus, *above*, on my French girlfriend's mother's bookshelves, and after reading Camus's *The Stranger*, I searched for them in the library. Meanwhile, Robert [Smith] and Michael [Dempsey] had found their books too: Robert while studying French literature at college, and Michael has always been an avid reader. The "three imaginary boys" always venerated the written word. I can trace that back to our high school days with our beloved English teacher, Mr Ansell, who showed us that with words the world was understandable.

He showed us that the pen was indeed mightier than the sword.

Camus's *The Rebel* is a revolutionary essay, something we yearned for in our suburban desert. For Camus, the urge to revolt was one of the "essential dimensions" of human nature, a struggle of Promethean scale against the conditions of existence and established orders. This was something we instinctively knew, helped along by Mr Ansell and our French teacher, Dr Weaver.

As the Cure, our first record was based on *The Stranger*. Robert took inspiration from the book for the words and guitar motif for our single *Killing an Arab*, backed with *10:15 Saturday Night*. I found the protagonist Meursault intriguing, a cipher for our situation growing up in postwar England.

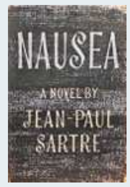
The Bell Jar
by Sylvia Plath (1963)



I consider Sylvia Plath to be the patron saint of postmodern feminist goths. I made this dramatic discovery in my teens. It's strange that an English teenage boy would find the symbols that she lay before us in her words and that they would resonate so perfectly in his own existence. Her most famous collection of poems, *Ariel*, published posthumously, was my introduction, and I soon hungrily sought out more.

Plath was my first poetic love and remains so. She spoke to me, as an angst-filled teen growing up on the periphery of the English capital, and to my longing for a new and unique experience of life. One not sullied by the beige normality that passed for existence in the English postwar years.

Nausea
by Jean-Paul Sartre
(1938)



Somewhere between a novel and philosophical tract. Set in the town of "Bouville", Sartre's masterpiece of absurdist literature opened my mind to the idea that there was no intrinsic path to follow in life. Something might be wrong or right, but there are no rules. Nevertheless, you had to do something. You had to make a choice.

To Bedlam and Part Way Back
by Anne Sexton
(1960)



Much has been made about the connection between her mental illness, drug abuse, and creativity, inspiring musicians such as Morrissey, among countless others, who are interested in the internal machinations of the ill. In fact, this is one of the main differences between earlier rock music and goth. The lyrical content of rock before goth is externalised without much in the way of analysis. Emotions are simplified, hence statements like Bad Company's *Feel Like Makin' Love* and Queen's *We Are the Champions*. In goth, lyrics form out of vulnerability as opposed to bravado and certainty.

The Little Red Schoolbook
by Soren Hansen and Jesper Jensen (1969)



This was an instruction manual on how to question the norms of society. It took a critical view of Victorian morality and the rules that we had been brought up with. More importantly, it tasked us to question this and our own ways.

my culture fix

The singer-songwriter lets us into her cultural life

Arlo Parks



My favourite author or book
Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead by the Polish author Olga Tokarczuk. It's like watching the human psyche stretch. It's exceptionally dark at times, occasionally hilarious and I've never read anything like it.

The book I am reading
Smiling in Slow Motion by Derek Jarman. It explores the vice grip of terminal illness, nature, friendship and resilience.

The book I wish I had written
Bluets by Maggie Nelson. As close to genius as it gets.



The book I couldn't finish
In Search of Lost Time by Proust. It is knotted and meandering and beautiful, but I just couldn't get through the 4,000-plus pages.

The book I am ashamed I haven't read
Orlando by Virginia Woolf. This does feel deeply shameful and it's on my list, I promise.

My favourite film
Happy Together by Wong Kar-wai. I've never watched anything so tender and painful and moving.

My favourite play
Long Day's Journey into Night by Eugene O'Neill. It's a genuinely heartbreaking story of addiction, family and deep trauma.

The box set that I am hooked on
I'm actually watching *The Office*, the US version, for the first time. There are only ten episodes left and I'm feeling pretty miserable about it. I think Rainn Wilson's Dwight is one of the best characters on TV ever.

My favourite TV series
Insecure by Issa Rae. The depiction of friendship between black women, black love, determination, conflict, awkwardness and selfhood is so beautiful to me.

My favourite piece of music
Weird Fishes/Arpeggi by Radiohead. Those glistening guitars will stay with me for ever.

The last movie that made me cry
Rewatching *Soul* at 2am with my partner. The message of treasuring life and finding the magic in the everyday made us both bawl our eyes out.

The lyric I wish I'd written
"Haven't laughed this hard in a long time. I'd better stop now before I start crying," from the song *Twilight* by Elliott Smith. The brutal pivot from elation to despair is so cutting.

The song that saved me
The Only Thing by Sufjan Stevens. I think it captures the deep pain of loss in an unflinching way, but there's this one line — "signs and wonders, sea lion caves in the dark" — that somehow offers a promise for mystery and joy to come.

The instruments I play
Guitar and piano.

The instrument I wish I'd learnt
The drums.

The music that cheers me up
Listening to anything produced by Pharrell always makes me bounce around the room.







Issa Rae and Yvonne Orji in Insecure. Left: Tony Leung Chiu-wai and Leslie Cheung in Happy Together. Below: Elliott Smith; Sufjan Stevens

If I could own one painting it would be…
The Ten Largest, No 2, Childhood by Hilma af Klint. I love the softness of the pastel and floral structures — it feels like a creation myth or a poem.

The place I feel happiest
Reading by the creek in Ojai in Ventura County, California.

I am having a fantasy dinner party, I'll invite these artists and authors…
Aphex Twin, Alice Coltrane, Paul B Preciado and Carrie Mae Weems.

And I'll put on this music…
The Early Bird Show with Pam on NTS, a soup of ambient music, obscure rarities and experimental instrumental music.

The concert I am looking forward to
I can't wait to see James Blake at the Olympia in Paris.

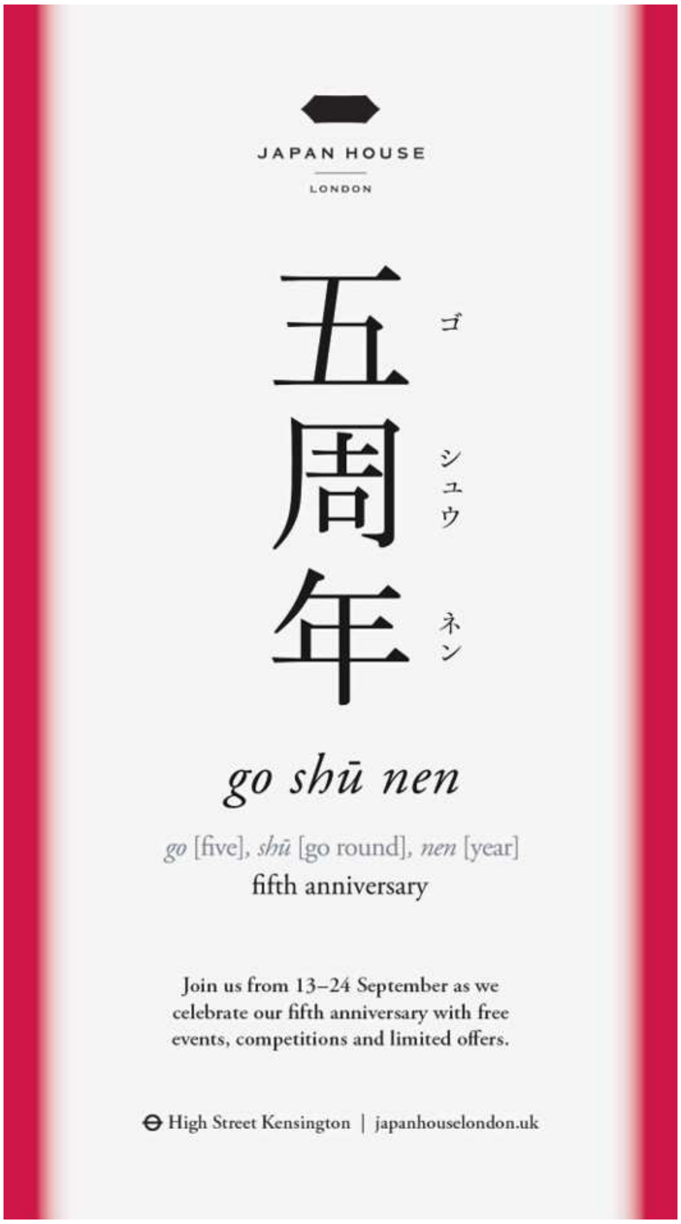
I wasted an evening watching…
The "Objects of Affection" series that Vogue does on YouTube.

The performance I walked out of
I've only ever walked out on one performance. It was *Slava's Snowshow*. I was ten and mischievous.

Overrated
I can't answer this without being mean so I won't.

Underrated
The composer/producer John Carroll Kirby. John's music is so rich and vibrant. He has offered unique contributions to some of my favourite records, from *Freetown Sound* by Blood Orange to *A Seat at the Table* by Solange. I think he's a genius.

Arlo Park's debut poetry collection, *The Magic Border*, is published on Thursday (4th Estate, £16.99). Buy from timesbookshop.co.uk or call 020 3176 2935. Discount for Times+ members



dance

Black Sabbath meets Black Swan

The creator of a new ballet inspired by the heavy-metal band tells Debra Craine to expect headbanging

It looks like any other rehearsal. A handful of dancers are casually flexing their limbs on the sidelines of Birmingham Royal Ballet's airy studio, while in the centre others are focused on perfecting new moves. Yet this is no ordinary rehearsal because it is no ordinary ballet they are learning. The dancers are getting ready for the world premiere of a three-act production inspired by Black Sabbath, arguably Birmingham's most famous cultural export, who have sold more than 70 million albums worldwide. On September 23, heavy metal is meeting satin pointe shoes.

Black Sabbath — The Ballet was commissioned by Carlos Acosta, BRB's artistic director, who says he was "drawn to the idea of a collaboration between what most people might think are the most unlikely of partners". The band have given the project its blessing, and Tony Iommi, their lead guitarist and co-founder, has been involved throughout the creative process. "Black Sabbath have always been innovators and never been predictable and it doesn't come any more unpredictable than this," Iommi says.

So what are we talking about here? Power chords and pirouettes? Headbanging and *haut port de bras*? Maybe a little of both, if I understand Pontus Lidberg correctly. He's the man leading the rehearsal, as one of three choreographers involved in the project. The Swedish dancemaker is credited as lead choreographer because he's in overall charge, making sure that the three sections of the ballet — each entrusted to a different artist — speak to each other. Is he a Black Sabbath fan?

"The honest answer is that I grew up with classical music," says the soft-spoken 46-year-old. "And on top of that each generation has its own soundtrack. I had mine and heavy metal was not part of it. But then I realised that Black Sabbath are on such a scale that you know who they are even if you don't think you do. I realised I did know a lot of the tunes, the riffs, the melodies. I had almost absorbed them through osmosis."

Lidberg is a busy international choreographer with an impressive CV, including collaboration with some of the world's biggest ballet companies. Most recently he ran Danish Dance Theatre, Denmark's largest contemporary dance troupe. He's a stylistic magpie, equally at home in both the twin peaks of western theatrical dance. "It's hard to put me in a box, and I don't want to be put in one," he says. "I do contemporary dance theatre and I do classical ballet — I don't live in these divisions, even though other people do."

Although his work has been performed here by Acosta Danza and the BalletBoyz, this is the highest profile commission he's undertaken in the UK. Acosta first mentioned it to Lidberg shortly after he took over BRB three years ago. It's not surprising that the Cuban became fixated on the idea of a ballet inspired by Black Sabbath: he is keen to root his company more firmly in Birmingham. As Lidberg says: "Black Sabbath is huge here. The streetcars are called Ozzy, the bridge is called Black Sabbath bridge — this is like Black Sabbath central. Carlos wanted to invite Birmingham to BRB by doing this project."

What exactly, then, is this project? According to Lidberg, "it's not a story ballet, it's not musical theatre and it's not somewhere very abstract". Instead it's a full-evening ballet that references the life and music of the band while not specifically re-enacting their stories or representing their iconic characters on stage. There will be no Ozzy Osbourne figure and, despite the presence of an onstage guitarist, no Iommi one either. However, Richard Thomas, the show's dramaturg (and co-creator of *Jerry Springer: The Opera*), has interviewed Iommi and Sharon Osbourne (her 74-year-old husband, Ozzy, being in poor health) and you will hear them talk about the band in voiceover.

"We did not want to tell the band's story from A to Z," Lidberg says. "It's more about how the meeting of two seemingly disparate things — BRB and Black Sabbath — would give birth to something new."

As for the music, it also involves a triumvirate of creators, with Christopher Austin as the lead composer working with Marko Nyberg and Sun Keting. There are eight Black Sabbath tracks, including *Iron Man*, *Paranoid* and *Laguna Sunrise*, that have been reorchestrated for the Royal Ballet Sinfonia (BRB's orchestra), plus new music inspired by the band. Music fans take note: there won't be any original Black Sabbath recordings blasting out of the speakers at the Birmingham Hippodrome (or at Theatre Royal Plymouth, or Sadler's Wells when the show tours in October), but, Lidberg says, "some of the songs are recomposed, but so close to the original that they are instantly recognisable".

Why three choreographers? It seems unwieldy for a single production, but, Lidberg says, there's method in Acosta's madness. "Carlos wants to give chances to new voices, but he also wants the piece to be cohesive. It's not a triple bill of separate ballets, but something that is really thought through, that makes sense as an evening. I have been assigned to have overarching responsibility for all three acts and to mentor the other two choreographers."

They are Raul Reinoso, who comes from a contemporary dance background in Cuba, and Cassi Abranches, from Grupo Corpo, the Brazilian dance-theatre troupe. Will I notice a difference in each of the three acts? "Oh yes, a massive difference," Lidberg says. "Each act has a different angle and style. Raul, in act one, has more of an origin angle, in particular the metal factories that were here in the Sixties. Tony Iommi had an accident when he was a teenager working in a sheet metal factory — two of his fingertips on his right hand were cut off. He was a guitarist and was told he wouldn't be able to play again. But he taped his fingers and re-tuned his guitar in a different way, which is now the iconic Black Sabbath guitar sound. So Birmingham's metal factories were audible in Black Sabbath's music.

"Cassi's angle in Act II is more to do with the band, it has more of a human touch, while my angle in Act III is about the fans. Everyone's a fan, that's the idea. My third act is on pointe because these are excellent classical dancers with very particular skills and I wanted to feature that. Will there be headbanging too? Oh yeah."

In their heyday in the Seventies, Black Sabbath were accused of everything from Satanism to the moral corruption of Britain's youth. The occult themes and horror-flick lyrics outraged churchgoing conservatives. Perceived as sinister and scary, the band were the very antithesis of the peace-loving hippy gods of the Sixties.

All of this makes Lidberg laugh. "Yes, they were seen as dangerous, but I realise now in today's world that it was all completely harmless. They were rebellious, like young people are. Eventually, the interesting thing was the feeling when Black Sabbath performed — people were loving it, it wasn't gloomy and depressing. The band managed to channel the pent-up energy and resentment and out of that came a lot of connection and warmth and community. The ballet will reflect that."

Birmingham Hippodrome, Sep 23-30; Theatre Royal Plymouth, Oct 12-14; Sadler's Wells, Oct 18-21. brb.org.uk

PEROU





Above: Black Sabbath — The Ballet. Left: (from top left) Geezer Butler, Tony Iommi, Ozzy Osbourne and Bill Ward. Right: Pontus Lidberg

'Black Sabbath have never been predictable and it doesn't come more unpredictable than this'

exhibition

Coco Chanel — the designer who

A show at the V&A reveals the creator of the little black dress as a radical force in fashion and culture. By Laura Freeman

The end of an era. Fin de siècle. The last extravagant gasps of a way of dressing that hobbled, strangled and suffocated. That is how Gabrielle Chanel saw the fashions of the last decades of the 19th century and the first decade of the 20th. The costumes she had seen in the stands at the races at Compiègne and at the Moulins café where she had sung as a girl and picked up the nickname Coco, were, as she later put it, "reflections of a baroque style in which the ornate had killed off the figure, in which over-embellishment had stifled the body's architecture just as parasites smother trees in tropical forests".

Where was the person, the woman, beneath the frills and furbelows, the fans and parasols, the endless layers of frou-frou, millefeuille fuss? "Woman was no more than a pretext for riches, for sable, for chinchilla, for materials that were too precious. Complicated patterns, an excess of lace, of embroidery, of gauze, of flounces and over-layers had transformed what women wore into a monument of belated and flamboyant art. The trains of dresses swept up the dust, all the pastel shades reflected every colour in the rainbow in a thousand tints with a subtlety that faded into insipidness."

To understand how truly radical the designs of Chanel were you must remind yourself of what came before. We think of the little black dress, the gamine silhouette, the cropped hair, the white shirt, the neat tweed skirt suit and the slouched matelot sweater as "classics", but they were as revolutionary as the cubist works of Pablo Picasso and Georges Braque, the sculptures of Constantin Brancusi and Alberto Giacometti, the modernist apartments of Le Corbusier and Walter Gropius, the poetry of TS Eliot and Ezra Pound, the novels of James Joyce and Virginia Woolf and, later, of F Scott Fitzgerald and Ernest Hemingway, the ballets of Sergei Diaghilev and the music of Igor Stravinsky. The title of the V&A's autumn exhibition is *Gabrielle Chanel. Fashion Manifesto*. This is outfits as politics, dresses as demonstration. An *Arena* documentary, *Coco Chanel Unbuttoned*, will be screened on BBC2 to coincide with the opening.

The Roaring Twenties, the Jazz Age and the making of modernism demanded not just new ways of experiencing the world through art, architecture, music and literature, but new ways of being, living and dressing. The French writer André Malraux would say: "Chanel, General de Gaulle and Picasso are the three most important figures of our time." What Picasso did to liberate art, Chanel did to liberate women — how they dressed and, more importantly, how they moved.

Picture the woman of fashion in the first decade of the 20th century. She is one of Pierre-Auguste Renoir's late ladies in a hat that swoops at the crown and droops at the brim and is trimmed with half the fruit bowl. At her neck is a chiffon bow or a lace pie-crust collar. At her breast a posy of violets or peonies. Her hair is loose to her waist or pinned in coils and buns.



Coco Chanel in London in 1932. Far right: a Chanel photoshoot for Vogue Paris in 1960

She is Lucy Honeychurch, circa 1907, attempting to sightsee in the Florentine heat in EM Forster's *A Room with a View*, styled with perfect attention to period detail by the costumers of the Merchant Ivory film, in a little white lace hat, little white lace gloves and a high, tight lace collar. She is Eliza Doolittle, or at any rate Eliza Doolittle dressed by Cecil Beaton in *My Fair Lady*, feathered and ribboned like a divinely lovely ostrich, for a day out at Ascot. As it happens, the young Helena Bonham Carter and Audrey Hepburn, as Honeychurch and Doolittle respectively, were missing two vital attributes of the ideal "S-shaped" silhouette of the time. What was wanted was a marvellous monobosom under a billowing blouse and a bottom bolstered by bustles and padding. The waist in between was cinched tiny and tight by a corset.

Now picture the 26-year-old Chanel at the stables at Royallieu in 1909 or so. (Chanel was much given to embroidering, trimming and, where necessary, hemming short the facts of her early life to make herself more or less an ingenue or a sophisticate, but by general consensus her date of birth is given as 1883.) A photo shows her wearing a plain white shirt, dark jodhpur trousers, a simple stock around her neck and a sleek hat. The look is revolutionary: somewhere between page boy and convent girl, and insouciantly chic.

Chanel, in defiance of the lovely Renoir look, cut her hair short. She would remember coming back the night after she had shorn off her plaits to find that her maid had washed and placed the three coils of hair in the bathroom "like three dead bodies". She took her style cues from stableboys and Breton sailors. She made

Chanel's clothes freed women from whalebone and steel, but not from the need to be thin



clothes in which you could ride or hunt or fish or strike a business deal. Her skirts were cut low on the hip, not tight to the waist. They had pockets. The armholes were loose enough to allow a woman to lift her arms above her head. No corsets were needed. Simply slip on a camisole or cami-knickers. Her clothes freed women from whalebone and steel, but not from the need to be thin. The ideal figure for a Chanel dress was as slender as one of Le Corbusier's modish pilotis.

Chanel went in at first for hats, deploring the "floppy" chapeaux worn by her contemporaries, weighed down with "birds' nests and butterflies", but the garment that made her name was the little black dress — the dress of the future — a sheath in black crêpe de chine that she designed in 1926. American Vogue printed a drawing of Chanel's design with the legend: "Here is a Ford signed Chanel." Just as the Ford car had come off the production line and left the horse and carriage in the dust, so Chanel's little black dress would eclipse the trailing lace of Victorian or belle époque aunts and great-aunts.

As you sashay round the Chanel show this autumn, keep in mind Chanel's Paris, the Paris of the 1920s. Picasso, no longer the Spanish upstart, is the established raging bull of the Paris art scene, married to the Ballets Russes dancer Olga Khokhlova and getting around town in a chauffeur-driven car. In the summer, Picasso and his travelling caravan decamp

liberated women and inspired artists



Dressed in Chanel: the Princess of Wales, Janelle Monáe, Keira Knightley, Kristen Stewart and Penélope Cruz



to Juan-les-Pins, Cap d'Antibes or Monte Carlo to dance with F Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald. In Fitzgerald's *Tender Is the Night*, the beautiful, damned, tanned Nicole Diver sunbathes in a bathing suit and pearls and "crosses herself reverently" with Chanel perfume.

In Montparnasse, the Romanian sculptor Brancusi is installed in a cavernous suite of studios. In this "cave of wonders", as visitors remembered it, Brancusi conjured up shimmering birds and beasts in polished bronze, marble and brass. Sculptures such as the *Golden Fish* and the *Bird in Space* were like Chanel outfits in their pared-back simplicity and monochrome austerity. The sculptor dressed in a way that would have pleased Chanel: a white pyjama suit and wooden sabots — strictly no nonsense about waistcoats, fob watches or gentlemanly furled umbrellas.

The story of Chanel in the 1920s is one of sartorial, social and artistic triumph

It was the decade of glitter and shine. If the great-aunts had worn jet, amethysts and opals, then Chanel's women would wear white pearls and still whiter diamonds. When Evelyn Waugh reached for an image to describe the sparklingly modern house built by the zippy Mrs Beste-Chetwynde in *Decline and Fall* (1928), he came up with a description of a "roof and domes of glass and aluminium which glittered like Chanel diamonds in the afternoon sun". The point, perhaps, about Chanel diamonds, at least before Chanel launched her first true jewellery collection in 1932 — diamonds as a riposte to the Depression — was that the diamonds that sparkled against Chanel dresses in the 1920s were paste: shiny, fake, superficial and fun.

If Waugh gave the London Jazz Agers the title of the "Bright Young Things", then Jean Cocteau invented *Les enfants terribles*, the title of the novel he published in 1929 that encapsulated the drifting frivolity and brittleness of the generation that by their youth had escaped the First World War. Chanel had first collaborated with Cocteau in 1922 when he invited her to design for his stage production of *Antigone*. Chanel did the costumes, Picasso the sets. Cocteau said that he had asked Chanel because "she is the greatest couturière of our age and it is impossible to imagine the daughters of Oedipus poorly dressed".

Two years later Chanel designed the costumes for the Ballets Russes production of *Le Train Bleu*. Picasso designed the drop curtain — a massive recreation of a gouache of two maenads racing along the beach at Dinard. Chanel's costumes were not a complete success: when it came to the lifts, the male partners struggled to get a grip on the knitted bathing suits she had designed for the female dancers. Meanwhile, the pearl earrings that Chanel had bestowed on the ballerina Lydia Sokolova were so oversized that the Russian couldn't hear the music. Two of the bathing costumes, one striped pink-and-black like a Liquorice Allsort, will be on display at the V&A.

The Ballets Russes production of *The Rite of Spring* had opened in Paris in 1913 with choreography by Nijinsky and music by Stravinsky. Chanel not only made the costumes for its revival in 1920, she also paid 300,000 francs to finance the production and put up Stravinsky, his wife and their children at her villa Bel Respiro in Garches. It was at Bel Respiro that Stravinsky completed his *Symphonies pour instruments à vent*. (You may have seen the 2009 Cannes Film Festival potboiler *Coco Chanel & Igor Stravinsky*, which revs up the rumours, never proven, about an affair between the composer and the couturier.)

After dark, anyone who was anyone — Picasso, Cocteau, Hemingway, the dancer Josephine Baker who had made her name dancing in bananas and a beaded necklace — hung out at the nightclub cabaret Le Boeuf sur le Toit, and if by any chance Chanel was there, you had better be wearing her latest collection. The ageing Marcel Proust expressed a wish to see the Boeuf before he died. He turned up in white tie and tails, got into a fight with drunkards and challenged one to a duel.

If Brancusi gave the decade its shining surface finish, then Alberto Giacometti gave it its form. The young sculptor said goodbye to his family in the Swiss-Italian Alps and arrived in Paris in early January 1922. He found digs in Montparnasse and on visits to the Louvre discovered the slender, upright figures of Egyptian and Cycladic art. If the big-boned figures of the sculptor Antoine Bourdelle had epitomised the S-shaped silhouette of the previous generation, then Giacometti's skinny creations went with the leggy "garçonne" look created by Chanel.

The story of Chanel in the 1920s is one of sartorial, social and artistic triumph. For the curators of the V&A show, the 1940s will be the hardest part of the Chanel tale to tell. In May 1940 the German army advanced on and occupied Paris. German officials requisitioned the Ritz where Chanel had a permanent suite. Gabrielle Chanel's war record is not glorious. She had a relationship with a German embassy official, Hans Günther von Dincklage, a German Abwehr spy, Nazi propagandist and special attaché to the German embassy in Paris. Chanel, with her connections to British clients, was of interest to German officials and given the code name "Westminster" and the code number F7124. After the liberation of Paris by the Allies, she was arrested by the Free French Forces on suspicion of collaboration. She was detained, questioned and released.

There is much that is still unknown about Chanel during the war and the exhibition will stir up interest in unanswered questions. Genius and niceness don't necessarily go together. Picasso wasn't nice or soft or easy to pin down. Why should Chanel be? Black and white may look good on the catwalk, but history wears shades of grey.

***Gabrielle Chanel. Fashion Manifesto* is at the V&A, London SW7 (vam.ac.uk), from September 16 to February 25**

books

Help! My doppelgänger is a conspiracy theorist

SEBASTIAN NEVOLS/GUARDIAN/EYEVINE





Naomi Klein. Left: Naomi Wolf on Steve Bannon's War Room talkshow

Book of the week

Naomi Klein, often mistaken for the antivaxer Naomi Wolf, on the mirror world of paranoid politics. By Hugo Rifkind



Doppelganger
A Trip into the Mirror World
by Naomi Klein
Allen Lane, 400pp; £25

When it comes to news, and politics, and Covid, and the question of whether a shadowy fascist, child-abusing elite wants to plunge us into worldwide, technocratic slavery, but only after killing most of us with malign vaccines full of time-travelling nanoparticles, then we all know by now that some people have lost the plot. They are barking. They are deluded. They are nuts. They are, as Naomi Klein puts it in *Doppelganger: A Trip into the Mirror World*, "in open warfare against objective reality". The trouble is, that's also what they think about us. And who is right?

Don't worry, it's not a trick question. We are. And Klein is one of us. The problem she has, though, is that people think she's one of them. This is because they confuse her with her near namesake Naomi Wolf. To remind you, Klein is a Canadian writer and social activist who made her name with trendy political books (*No Logo*, *The Shock Doctrine*) before recently focusing on climate politics. Wolf, meanwhile, is an American writer and social activist who made hers with a trendy feminist book (*The Beauty Myth*) before recently going batshit crazy about things like vaccines.

Superficially, the two Naomis have a lot in common. Beyond the names and the jobs, they are both big-haired and Jewish. Both have engaged with the anti-capitalist movement and both have fiercely and controversially criticised Zionism. Also, both have been married to film producers called Avram, whose surnames begin with an "L". "What the actual f***?" Klein's Avram says on learning this last part.

In the early chapters Klein deals with all this with almost giggly incredulity. It was ironic, she concedes, that a writer who made her name by opposing the concept of brands (*No Logo*) had lost control of her own personal brand. There is, she tells us, even a popular internet rhyme that highlighted the problem: "If the Naomi be Klein/ you're doing just fine/ If the Naomi be Wolf/ Oh, buddy. Ooooooof."

Before Covid, this was just an annoyance for Klein. Perhaps you remember the furore around Wolf's 2019 book on the Victorian repression of homosexuality, *Outrages*, after the British journalist Matthew Sweet informed her live on Radio 4 that she had completely misunderstood the facts on which it was based. To precis, she had thought that "death recorded" in court notes meant that scores of gay men had been executed. Actually, it meant they hadn't been. The exchange was devastating for Wolf's credibility. It was also hilarious. Only less so, probably, if people thought you were her.

During the pandemic, though, things got a lot worse. Wolf evolved into a full-blown vaccine conspiracist. One moment she would be likening the unvaccinated to Jews in Nazi Germany, the next she would be tweeting about Covid passports leading to global slavery, or Bill Gates being behind it all, or pseudo-medical theories so nonsensical that it's hard to know where to start.

Whenever this happened, Klein would be bombarded with derision. "Lost all respect for Naomi Klein," people would tweet. Or at best: "OMG. I just now realised they are not the same person." Initially, Klein would respond by joining internet pile-ons ridiculing the other Naomi. "Not that Naomi," her Twitter bio said. She's very honest about why she did this. "I was feeling less important," she writes, "like I was disappearing." In a sense, she was. Commissioned to write about Gates and climate change, she simply couldn't manage it. "Anything I wrote about Gates," she realised, "would likely fuel my Other Naomi problem."

This is not, though, just a fun book about one Naomi being confused with another.

> **'I felt like Naomi Wolf had taken my ideas and fed them into a bonkers blender'**

Starting there, Klein uses the conflation to examine the phenomenon of people going, as she puts it, "down the rabbit hole".

Klein admits that her response to Wolf began as derision, but morphed into a sort of terrified awe. For Wolf, she began to realise, was having a whale of a time, first on the podcast hosted by Donald Trump's former consigliere Steve Bannon, then as a fixture on the madder fringes of Fox News. Rather than sinking into obscurity, she had instead soared in prestige and prominence in a "mirror world" that defined itself in opposition to the one Wolf had left.

"Kicked off Twitter?" Klein writes. "Sign up for the copycat site Gettr… Censored by YouTube? Get an account on Rumble." This doppelgänger network, Klein realises, is a huge political phenomenon. She quotes Bannon, who spoke in an interview of a boring guy called "Dave in Accounting" who turned into "Ajax, a gun-toting evil-slayer" on his gaming console. "I want Dave in Accounting to be Ajax in his life," Bannon said. And this, in a sense, is what has happened not only to Wolf, but also to anybody else down the conspiracist, QAnon-adjacent rabbit hole, including the crowds who stormed the US Capitol in January 2021. Every Dave is now an Ajax.

This is a brilliant insight, but it's a column, not a book. With another 200 pages to fill, Klein broadens her thesis. Conspiracy theories, she tells us, are the twisted doppelgänger of investigative journalism. A personal brand is a doppelgänger of the self, as is an online avatar.

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Modern history — I think I'm getting this right — is a series of doppelgängers and mirror worlds, first allowing Europeans to ignore the brutality of colonialism, then allowing those who saw the Holocaust as a unique evil "the refusal to see where the Nazis fit inside the arc of colonial genocides" that had gone before. Israel, she tells us, and "its partitioned shadow land, Palestine" shows us a "continuation of the colonial logic, but with broken and traumatised people let loose on a people even less powerful than themselves."

This is the densest part of the book, probably because Klein figures that if you're going effectively to say, "The Nazis were nothing special and the Israelis are following them," then you probably ought to dress it up a bit. Her point, though, is that mirror worlds are created when people cannot bear the guilt of the truth. For example, the paranoia of far-right QAnon types about the ethnic replacement of white people and eradication through disease mirrors how North America was settled in the first place. As one activist she quotes puts it: "It's all so Freudian."

At this point, it's probably worth remembering that quite a few reviewers accused her most influential book, *The Shock Doctrine*, of conspiratorialism itself. In it she

Quite a few reviewers accused Klein's book The Shock Doctrine of conspiratorialism

argued that neoliberal forces consciously exploited disasters — from Hurricane Katrina to the Asian tsunami to wars — to pursue capitalist agendas. Indeed, she went further, floating the idea that "the architects of the invasion" of Iraq "had unleashed ferocious violence because they could not crack open the closed economies of the Middle East by peaceful means". Even now, Klein argues that "shock doctrine strategies" were used repeatedly during Covid, citing everything from healthcare privatisation to contactless payments and Google Classroom. This is obviously more restrained than Wolf's raving about vaccines, genocide and nanoparticles, but you can see how the one could plant the seeds for the other.

Klein can see it too. "I felt like she had taken my ideas," she writes of Wolf, and "fed them into a bonkers blender." Klein frets now that she might not have been clear enough that the "shock doctrine" exploitation she railed against in the past was "opportunistic" rather than "part of a grand backroom plot". Yet given that this is almost the exact opposite of what she says about the Iraq war in *The Shock Doctrine*, this strikes me as a little rich.

Doppelganger is a surprisingly funny book and packed full of ideas, including about areas I simply haven't the space to cover, such as the dalliance between the Bannonesque right and, for example, yoga practitioners. It also, at its heart, makes a truly worthwhile distinction between two sorts of thinkers who are often conflated, even when they're not all called Naomi.

On the one hand, you have those like Klein, who will flirt with conspiratorialism in a genuine effort to scrutinise the motives and machinations of the powerful. On the other, there are those like Wolf, who will believe almost anything. It strikes me, all the same, that there's a string of inspiration and culpability that runs between the first type and the second that Klein, while worrying about it, never quite manages to address. Still, it could be worse. My doppelgänger is Giles Coren.

The 'crack-brained' duchess who became a feminist pioneer

'Mad Madge' was a poet, philosopher and trailblazer. She was also ridiculous. By Emma Duncan

Even in decadent, showy Restoration London, Margaret Cavendish, Duchess of Newcastle, caused a stir. According to a contemporary diarist, she turned up one evening at the theatre in a carriage pulled by eight white bulls and sat with "her breasts all laid out to view" and accessorised with "scarlet trimmed nipples". Samuel Pepys was desperate to catch a glimpse of her when he was out and about on May Day, but failed because she was "being followed and crowded upon by coaches all the way she went"; ten days later, he observed, she had "100 boys and girls running looking upon her".

It was not just her outrageous outfits that made Margaret (1623-73) a celebrity. Her exhibitionism extended to her work. She was a feminist, a philosopher and a poet who published under her own name — an extraordinary thing for a woman of her class to do at the time.

Not that her efforts won her undiluted respect, among contemporaries or in subsequent centuries. She was dismissed as "Mad Madge of Newcastle" by a Victorian cultural historian and as a "giant cucumber" crushing the delicate blooms of 17th-century literature by Virginia Woolf. She knew she was regarded as ridiculous, but it didn't shut her up. For that alone, you have to like her.

If she was a bit bonkers, it is hardly surprising. Her family were Royalists. When her home in Colchester was stormed by the Parliamentary army, the soldiers opened the graves of her recently interred mother and sister, cut off the corpses' hair, made wigs of them and killed her beloved brother. Margaret fled to France with the court. The boredom of being a maid of honour to Henrietta Maria, Charles I's wife, sounds nearly as maddening as the brutality meted out to her family. She had to sit around in the queen's presence doing nothing from 11am to suppertime. Still, it was at least a good place to meet eligible chaps — although her future husband barely qualified as such.

William Cavendish, Charles II's former tutor and a poet, had, perhaps not surprisingly, proved to be a hopeless military commander. After a disastrous defeat he abandoned the fight, left for France and, although in bad odour even with his side, hung around the court. Despite the 30-year age gap, he and Margaret fell in love. Her impecunity and his poetry suggest that the passion was real.

Skint, the couple moved to Antwerp, where they could live cheaply. Margaret had no education and couldn't spell, so at her request William set about tutoring her. She started writing — possibly to make money, possibly, as she says in the introduction to her first book, *Poems and Fancies*, to assuage her "melancholy".

ALAMY



Margaret Cavendish



Pure Wit
The Revolutionary Life of Margaret Cavendish
by Francesca Peacock

Head of Zeus, 384pp; £27.99

Virginia Woolf saw her as a 'giant cucumber' crushing literature's blooms

After the Restoration, things looked up somewhat. William was made a duke, which clearly suited Margaret: the title page of her books describes her as "the thrice noble, excellent and illustrious Princess, the Duchess of Newcastle". The couple were still short of cash, but that didn't stop Margaret from spending huge sums on her clothes. They hung out in the best intellectual society, dining one evening with Descartes. Hobbes couldn't make it, but he did lend William money, and demanded William's telescope as security for the debt. Margaret was the first woman to be invited to a meeting of the Royal Society. The eminent scientists, divided over whether she should visit, put the matter to a vote. She turned up wearing a man's hat and a dress with a massive train.

Margaret's books ranged remarkably widely. She produced the first collection of plays to be published by an Englishwoman, serious philosophy about the nature of matter, whimsical poems about fairies and one of the earliest works of science fiction. Although said to be shy, she was not afflicted by modesty. The Duchess of Newcastle turns up in the sci-fi book as the beautiful, clever and humble soulmate to an empress. Making money does not seem to have been her main motivation: she wanted "Beauty, Wit, Titles, Wealth or Power", she wrote, only "as they are steps to raise me to Fames Tower".

Since she seems to have been genuinely radical in her opinions, she may have sought celebrity not just for its own sake, but also to make an intellectual mark. She was an outspoken feminist before the word was invented. "Men are so unconscionable and Cruel to us," she wrote of women, "as they… would fain Bury us in their Houses or Beds, as in a Grave; the truth is, we live like Bats or Owls, Labour like Beasts and Die like Worms."

She was passionately concerned — and way before her time — by humanity's behaviour towards animals: "no Creature doth usurp so much as Man,/ Who thinks himself like God because he can/ Rule other Creatures." That she has never been taken seriously as a radical thinker may be in part because she was, from the progressive point of view, on the wrong side in the civil war.

It may also be because so much of what she wrote was rubbish. Woolf complained that she "frittered her time away scribbling nonsense and plunging ever deeper into obscurity and folly" and thought that by inciting contempt for the female intellect she did women a disservice.

"The crazy Duchess became a bogey to frighten clever girls with." But the clever girls — Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, Mary Wollstonecraft, Fanny Burney — kept popping up, apparently unperturbed by Madge's madness, and even Woolf admits to warm feelings for the daft duchess. "Though her philosophies are futile, her plays intolerable and her verses mainly dull, the vast bulk of the duchess is enlivened by a vein of authentic fire… There is something noble and Quixotic and high-spirited, as well as crack-brained and bird-witted, about her."

Francesca Peacock's enjoyable book is enriched by accounts of other women who lived remarkably in those remarkable times. Anna, Lady Cunningham, raised a mixed-sex regiment in Berwick to resist not just the king but also her own son, who had turned Royalist. She led a troop of horse with guns dangling by her side and silver bullets reserved for her son. There were clearly enough women masquerading as men to join the army that Charles I issued a proclamation forbidding it. Even his wife took an active part in the war. She set herself up in Bridlington to help to direct the armies in the north, gave birth on the run, hid "under a pile of litter", boarded a ship to France and told the captain that if they looked like being captured, he should blow the ship up.

The book does not, however, make any powerful new points about Margaret Cavendish, a woman whose career and eccentricities were already as well known as they deserve to be. A good biography of her, *Mad Madge* by Katie Whitaker, was written 20 years ago. It is not clear that she needed another.

books

From the cool girl dream to a ‘crack den rental’


Stacey Duguid

How a high-flying fashion editor’s world imploded after her midlife divorce. By Marianne Power

Stacey Duguid spent her twenties and thirties in nightclubs, “dabbling occasionally with the odd recreational drug (or five)”. She shopped hard, loved hard and “tried very hard to find a man who could save me”. She wanted the house, the partner, the children and the Farrow & Ball paint. And she got it.

In Pursuit of Happiness is a book about what happened when it all came crumbling down. “I once worked for British Elle magazine and wore expensive clothes, whereas I’m now a single mother, divorcee and love addict (wearing the expensive clothes I never should have bought).”

In this engaging, honest and funny book she writes about most of the big events that can happen in a woman’s life: miscarriage, debt, affairs, divorce, postnatal depression and the grim activity of dating in midlife. She doesn’t hold much back — from heavy drinking to hook-ups in club toilets to drugs and debt. She laughs at herself easily while being honest about her flaws. It’s a winning combination.

Duguid was brought up in Manchester and Scotland by working-class parents. I loved the passages about the strong women she grew up with. She remembers her grandmother talking about her doctor, Harold Shipman. Her nan’s response was that he was an “absolute wrong’un” — not because of all the murders, but because he was “always bloody showing off. No one likes a bloody show-off.”

When Duguid was a child, her mother, who went on to marry three times, would wake her up whispering, “It’s time to marry a prince,” which eventually changed to: “It’s time to marry Prince Charles.” When she was a teenager that message changed. “From when I was 13 on a fairly regular basis, and always totally out of the blue, she would say, ‘Keep your legs together, nobody wants to marry a bike.’ ”

With these messages ringing in her ears Duguid went to London when she was 20. She knew nobody and had no money, but was determined to make it big in the big city. She did. She got jobs working for Paul Smith, Giorgio Armani, Prada and Elle, and was flown to all the fashion weeks. She got fired from one job after dancing on a podium at a Tom Ford party while wearing a “borrowed” new-season Armani dress.



In Pursuit of Happiness
Mating, Marriage, Motherhood, Money, Mayhem
by Stacey Duguid
Piatkus, 378pp; £18.99

Duguid does a great job identifying the message that women of her age — she is 49 — got from movies and fairytales about happiness being a white dress and a big-earning, hot guy. She also captures the “ladette” mania of the Nineties. Women could drink like the boys! Get the jobs! Have sex! Only nobody mentioned that we were not being paid as much as the men. The pressure on her to live the cool-girl dream put her into debt, and she kept buying designer handbags and YSL dresses.

She wishes that someone had told her at 30 that “true freedom lies in being financially independent”. Instead she met a man who proposed to her so casually she had to check he was being serious. She said yes even though “in the weeks running up to the wedding, I did nothing but drink myself into a stupor. Rosé, gin, beer, red wine. I don’t even like gin.”

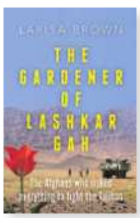
They had two children and she writes powerfully about postnatal depression — “I don’t recall picking up the knife, but I remember thinking how pretty it looked. Neat and orderly, a knife has purpose — unlike me, a woman who, despite all her efforts, was unable to get to grips with the baby thing.” Knife in hand, she contemplated killing herself and the baby before the thought of him dying and her living pulled her back to reality. She went to the doctor and was put on medication.

‘Like many love addicts I’ve spent a life craving, needing, and yearning for love’

The marriage finally imploded when she was unfaithful. In therapy she discovered that she was a love addict. “Love addiction is the constant need to feel loved — romantically or otherwise — to fill a

The Afghans who risked their lives for us

An account of one family’s struggle to survive the West’s chaotic withdrawal. By Saul David



The Gardener of Lashkar Gah
The Afghans who Risked Everything to Fight the Taliban
by Larisa Brown
Bloomsbury Continuum, 276pp; £25

On August 26, 2021, as thousands of Afghans thronged the perimeter of Kabul airport desperate to escape the vengeance of the Taliban, an Isis suicide bomber walked into the crowd and detonated his explosive vest. “Some were flung by the blast into a sewage ditch,” Larisa Brown writes. “One woman, her dress soaked in a deep red, was holding her dead child while screaming up at the sky.”

More than 180 people, including 13 American servicemen, were killed in the blast and many more were injured. It was the deadliest day of the chaotic withdrawal of western troops from Afghanistan, which had been brought forward from its original date, September 11, as Taliban troops closed in on the capital. Amid the carnage there were some success stories. Operation Pitting evacuated 6,000 Britons and 8,000 Afghans who had worked for the British armed forces and were likely targets of Taliban retribution. But for many other deserving cases it was too little, too late. More than 5,000 Afghans eligible for sanctuary in the UK were left behind — some because of the Foreign Office’s premature decision to withdraw its diplomatic staff from Kabul — and remain there still, “in limbo, fearing for their lives but having nowhere else to go”.

It is an inglorious tale that reflects badly on a succession of British politicians and civil servants who failed to ensure the safety of these mostly Afghan interpreters and callously kept their families apart even when one of them had been flown to the UK. The exception was Ben Wallace, the defence secretary and a former soldier, who in 2019 relaxed the rules so that more Afghan former employees of the British could come to the UK. One was Shaista Gul, the subject of this book, whose story Brown tells “so that the sacrifices of the Afghan people are not forgotten”.

Gul, a former Afghan policeman, had been a gardener at the British military base in Lashkar Gah for six years when Nato withdrew its combat troops in 2014. Within this 80ft-square haven from war he grew the “world’s best-looking poppies, gaudy orange marigolds and hollyhocks that were as tall as the soldiers on the base”. It became an oasis for soldiers with troubled minds. Gul’s motive for assisting the British was chiefly financial — his $450 monthly salary made him one of the wealthiest people in the city — but he also believed that the western troops would make his country a better place.

Yet working with the British could be deadly. Gul’s son Jamal got a job as an interpreter for British troops in 2009, when he was just 17. After a number of close shaves he was shot twice during a large-scale operation in Nad Ali and took many months to recover. Once back on his feet he received a warning from the Taliban to leave British employment. He ignored it and was lucky to survive an assassination attempt by two armed Talibs on a motorbike. Because his life was obviously under threat, he was allowed to move to Britain.

Other former interpreters had their cases rejected because their claims of intimidation were not believed or, like Jamal’s brother Mahmood, they had worked for private contractors and so were not eligible for sanctuary. They were, however, just as vulnerable. Shot 14 times by the Taliban, Mahmood survived with horrific injuries. His elder brother Rahmatullah, a policeman who had killed a suspected insurgent, was murdered in 2019.

In April 2021, in the same month the US announced that Nato was withdrawing all its remaining troops from Afghanistan by September 11, the 20th anniversary of 9/11, the British government introduced the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy. Now Afghans who, like Gul, had worked directly for the British in roles other than patrol interpreters could come to Britain with their families. Jamal used his many connections with former soldiers and journalists to try to convince the authorities that his father was under threat. But with events moving so fast, and town after town falling to the Taliban, it seemed a hopeless task.



The Guls were among thousands of Afghans who fled to Kabul airport in a desperate attempt to flee the country before the troops pulled out. This last section of the book is unbelievably tense as Brown charts the Guls’ struggle to navigate huge crowds, suicide bombers and obstructive Taliban to board a flight to safety. Did they succeed? You’ll have to read the book to find out. Many did not and Brown, who spearheaded the Daily Mail’s Betrayal

void inside . . . Like many love addicts I've spent a life craving, needing, wanting and yearning for love." She realised that her parents' divorce when she was very young affected her, as did losing contact with her biological father and her stepfather of 13 years. But this is not a "poor me" memoir. There is no self-pitying.

After separating from her husband she moved out of the family house and into a "crack den rental". She was determined to style it out — dressing up in trouser suits and kitten heels on the school run before going home to slouch on the sofa in her pyjamas. Eventually she gave in and bought a tracksuit, which she wore with Primark slippers, all the while filling her house with Post-it notes telling her to "GET A GRIP".

Her life was a mess, but she refused to go under. She started dating much sooner than she should have. The dates were depressing at best and disturbing at worst — one man wrapped his hands around her neck outside Soho House. She describes how for most of her life she didn't like sex: "No matter how hard I tried, I never really enjoyed it — not really." Women will want to kiss her for her honesty — and will be cheering when she eventually has good sex, courtesy of a younger lover.

There is so much to enjoy about the book, but I struggled with its structure. The book is presented as a series of essays in five parts: Mating, Marriage, Motherhood, Money, Mayhem. I wish she had just written a chronological narrative instead. The story is interrupted by *Bridget Jones*-type magazine articles about her wedding and divorce diets, which feel dated. The interludes where other writers share various tips about money, motherhood and so on sometimes work, but often feel like an interruption. I wanted to stay in Duguid's company. She could write about Farrow & Ball paint drying — not to mention the breakdown of a marriage and a lifetime's dreams — and make it funny. Whatever happens next in her life, I want to read it.

TOM JACKSON FOR THE TIMES



The Gul family, with Shaista and his mother in the centre

of the Brave campaign before becoming this newspaper's defence editor, is quick to point the finger at British officials.

"If someone had listened to the journalists, politicians, military personnel, war heroes and more than 176,000 members of the public who signed a petition in 2015 for the government to help them earlier," she writes, "there would be far more Afghans living in safety in Britain today."

Exhaustively researched and sensitively written, *The Gardener of Lashkar Gar* is a first-class account of one family's struggle to survive the West's ultimately futile war. Gul had applied to work with British forces in 2007 because he believed their presence was good for his country. Now he knew better. Ultimately, western troops "had run away, leaving the country in a worse state than when they had arrived".

KATARZYNA SOSZKA/ALAMY



Anime cosplay fans in Tokyo

An affable Brit's guide to wacky Japan

A chortleworthy look at the land of karaoke, cat fanatics and chocolate-coated fries. By Richard Lloyd Parry

It is part of the mystery of Japan that even in the age of mass tourism it remains unsullied as a place of the imagination. A 21st-century visitor to the canals of Venice, the beaches of Australia or the savannahs of Africa will find it impossible to formulate an original thought or observation. But in Japan every arriving foreigner is able to imagine himself treading virgin territory.

Superficial impressions of Tokyo, for some reason, are worth more than those registered elsewhere. The clichés remain fresh and exciting; everyone who comes here can mint them anew and the rest of the world eagerly listens. "Elfish everything seems," the Victorian writer Lafcadio Hearn wrote in his 1894 essay *My First Day in the Orient*. "For everything as well as everybody is small, and queer, and mysterious." Chris Broad, a young Englishman, is the latest in a long line of foreign writers to alight in this fairyland and make a career of explaining it. Few before him have done so with such success.

His book *Abroad in Japan* has been a summer bestseller. His YouTube channel of the same name has 2.9 million subscribers and rising. Two years ago he even released a novelty song, *Too Much Volcano!*, in which he and his chums rap about a mountain on the island of Kyushu ("We're chillin' at the peak of the volcano … I'm with the bros, surrounded by the sulfur clouds."). Broad is a self-deprecating 33-year-old from Maidstone ("affable" is the adjective he applies to himself) who has established himself as one of the most influential foreign commentators on Japan. This modest, digestible book tells the story of how it all came about.



Abroad in Japan
Ten Years in the Land of the Rising Sun
by Chris Broad
Bantam, 320pp; £16.99

His YouTube channel has 2.9 million subscribers and he has released a novelty song, Too Much Volcano!

Like many foreigners who end up making a life in Japan, Broad came over as a JET, a participant in a long-running government programme to place native speakers in Japanese state schools. He found himself in Sakata, a small, snowy mountain town in Japan's northeast, unglamorously remote from the excitements of Tokyo and the beauties of Kyoto. "Overwhelmed and utterly naive," Broad writes, "I had no idea what was going on."

The early pages describe a familiar trajectory as the newly arrived *gaijin*, or foreigner, encounters the alien culture at first with a jolt, then with increasing familiarity, ease and delight. Broad moves into a tiny flat, struggles with Japanese, and is amused by funny examples of bad Japanese English and embarrassed at having to strip naked in a hot spring bath. The most interesting pages are about the school where he serves as an assistant to Japanese English teachers who are not expected to speak the language and whose pupils have little chance or expectation of learning it.

Gradually, and affably, gaining confidence, Broad sings karaoke, acquires some Japanese and makes friends — the best of these, an eccentric middle-aged man named Natsuki, has become something of a cult figure on Broad's YouTube channel for his chortleworthy English ("I like Queen Elizabeth. So good England grandma."). He visits a hostess bar, wheezes up Mount Fuji, burns his mouth on battered octopus and gets chucked out of a love hotel after his credit card is declined.

These are inconsequential, low-voltage adventures in realms that have been described many times before. But it is difficult to dislike Broad, who is wry and teasing, but never cross or mean-spirited. And, as the book relates, he discovers a huge audience for his meandering affability.

His homemade videos about his adventures begin to attract bigger and bigger online audiences. Sponsors pay him to make films promoting tourism and he travels across the country in search of "weird and wacky subjects". He visits a village that claims to have the true grave of Jesus Christ (the Saviour fled the Holy Land just in time, and left his brother to be crucified in his place). He hosts an extended documentary entitled *Cat Nation*. "I wasn't convinced that viewers hoping to learn about cats in Japan would want to do so through the lens of a snarky, sarcastic, British dickhead," he confesses. But viewers love it.

A film of Broad eating French fries with chocolate sauce goes viral. His wobbly footage of an air raid warning after the test launch of a North Korean missile is watched 4.6 million times. Today, as the proprietor of "the largest Japan travel channel on YouTube", he enjoys a status difficult to grasp by those of us unimmersed in the world of vlogging. After Broad and a young female YouTuber became engaged, they made a special broadcast to answer questions from their fans, sponsored by a spectacles manufacturer.

It would be a shame if Broad's online success made him pompous. At its best, reading and watching him is like spending a night down the pub with a likeable mate freshly returned from Japan. He is no stylist; his occasional stabs at broad generalisation slump into cliché ("There's always one more wild discovery waiting for you, just around the corner, in the land of the Rising Sun"). But he communicates the excitement that everyone who loves Japan will recognise — in the encounter with a country that is not just another variant of Euro-American culture, but a civilisation enduring and flourishing on its own terms.

books

The literary world's best kept secret

Jo Ann Beard's output is tiny — but perfect. She makes interesting things from trivial matter. By John Self



The Collected Works of Jo Ann Beard
Serpent's Tail, 448pp; £17.99


Jo Ann Beard

Calling a book *The Collected Works* is pretty grand-sounding, especially for an author that most readers won't have heard of. But just read this paragraph, which comes as an aside to an unrelated subject:

> "We had the kind of look on our faces that my sister [Linda] had when the team of doctors told my young nephew that he had cancer and it might be a kind that little kids don't recover from. He had refused to listen to them and stared only at his mom, whose eyes were fixed on the doctors, her expression not worried at all, smiling almost. When the doctors filed out, my sister said, 'Okay, Aunt Jo Jo and I are going to the cafeteria for malts. What kind do you want?' And this little boy who refused to look at or trust the doctors but trusted his parents said whatever he said, chocolate. And when we got down the hall, Linda fell like a tree."

Now that is the sort of writing that deserves to be in a book called *Collected Works*. And there are countless other examples I could have chosen. "Works" is deliberately vague because the American writer Jo Ann Beard writes hard-to-define things: they are essays because they come from real life; they are stories because they are beautifully structured and full of tension, character and surprise. The stories are essays, the essays are stories. Even when they are not literally true, they contain the kind of truth that great fiction thrives on.

The book contains 21 story-essay hybrids, ranging from two to sixty pages in length, previously published in Beard's only books, *The Boys of My Youth* (1998) and *Festival Days* (2021). If you're coming to Beard fresh, start with the essay that made her name, *The Fourth State of Matter*. Read it without knowing much about it: it's no spoiler to say that it starts out being about her collie's declining health, a squirrel infestation in her spare bedroom and her "vanished husband" ("He's reduced himself to a troubled voice on the telephone two or three times a day"). It seems to makes interesting things from trivial matter, then takes off in a spectacular way.

She has an eagle eye for family dynamics and how siblings wind each other up

But it's all good here, and in most cases much better than good. The pieces from *The Boys of My Youth* deal mostly with her childhood, and Beard has an eagle eye for the dynamics of family life, such as how siblings leverage parental authority to wind each other up. "'Linda's eating a radish without washing it,' I report. 'Jo Ann is making me sick,' she tells my mother." (This of course is the same Linda who will fall like a tree in a hospital corridor decades later.)

She repeatedly spots the surprising detail: seeing a close-cropped lawn, she recalls: "I read somewhere once that hysterical fans used to eat the grass where the Beatles had walked." She has descriptive prowess: her cousin's hair was so thick, "when she wakes up in the morning her head is like a landscape, with cliffs and valleys, spectacular pinnacles".

Many writers have these qualities, but Beard adds to them a quality of empathy that is best seen in two pieces based on other people's lives, *Werner* and *Cheri*. The first is about a man trapped in a burning apartment building ("a sprig of cloth-wrapped wire sizzled and then opened, like a blossom") and forced to "jump out of his life and into whatever this was".

Cheri, which is also being published as a slim stand-alone book, is a masterpiece that takes us into the head of a woman with terminal cancer. She engages the notorious Jack Kevorkian to assist her suicide: "His nickname is Dr Death, yet when it's over, he'll still be alive."

Beard understands that we recall our lives as a series of moments, delivered to us not by chronology, but by emotional weight. For Cheri this includes exceptional scenes like the time when she cries with relief simply because talking to Kevorkian allows her to describe her pain in full for the first time without qualification or limit, or how imminent death gives everything she sees a new vividness: "the world turns glamorous".

Death looms large in the pieces from *Festival Days* — it opens with a four-page account of Beard's dog being put down — which seems like emotional low-hanging fruit, but the details are always convincing and enlightening. How does she do it? She talks about this in the essay *Close*. She works hard: "The art comes from the craft." Given that there is nothing new under the sun, "we have to have insights, which means we have to think, and that means we have to work to create art out of life, to bring something new to each sentence, a surprise for the reader".

The hard work accounts for why Beard, at the age of 68, has published just those two collections and a novel. But at least we have the works collected here, which make me — as a reader — delirious with admiration and — as a writer – furious with envy.

To order a copy go to timesbookshop.co.uk or call 020 3176 2935

Rereading The Name of the Rose by Umberto Eco

One of the bestselling novels in history, this is a postmodern literary game dressed up as a playful detective story. By Stephanie Merritt

'I felt like poisoning a monk," Umberto Eco said, explaining the origins of his debut novel, *The Name of the Rose*, published in 1980. This year marks the 40th anniversary of the magisterial English translation by William Weaver; the book has sold more than 50 million copies worldwide, making it one of the bestselling novels in history.

But despite his homicidal urge towards the religious orders, Eco was wary of overplaying the detective story elements. His working title, he writes in *Postscript to The Name of the Rose*, a book-length essay published in 1983, was *The Abbey of the Crime*. He rejected it as a title because, he explains, "it concentrates the reader's attention entirely on the mystery story and might wrongly lure and mislead purchasers looking for an action-packed yarn".

There are layers upon layers of ironic humour here, just as the novel is wrapped in layers of metafiction, but he's not wrong. Contemporary readers in search of a pacey crime thriller may be bemused by all the digressions into biblical exegesis, heretical sects, ecclesiastical architecture, rhetoric, the history of the papacy, manuscripts, eschatology and optics, as well as dense untranslated quotations in Latin or ancient Greek that, in a conventional sense, interrupt the momentum of the narrative.

Strip away these asides, as the 1986 film adaptation starring Sean Connery did, and you are left with a traditional detective story in which a flawed, wise and morally upright investigator, made cynical by years of observing human folly, must examine clues to track down a killer apparently inspired to re-enact the plagues of the apocalypse on his victims.

But to regard the great swathes of literary and philosophical history — which, Eco concedes, his friends and editors urged him to cut — as digressions from the main plot is to misunderstand the novel's purpose and miss out on the full richness of the reading experience. *The Name of the Rose* is a playful, immersive textual game. Despite (or perhaps because of) its 14th-century setting, it's a thoroughly postmodern work, a complex collage of literary allusion with a knowing wink to the reader.

Some of this playfulness is overt: Eco's


Sean Connery and Christian Slater in the 1986 film adaptation

There is only one female character, and her sole function is to have sex with Adso

Holmesian detective is called William of Baskerville; at the heart of the mystery is a library that is also a labyrinth, its custodian an old blind man named Jorge of Burgos, Eco's homage to the Argentine writer Jorge Luis Borges, who went blind in later life and whose best-known work centred on labyrinths, libraries, memory and questions of authorship. "I rediscovered what writers have always known (and have told us again and again) — books always speak of other books," Eco writes.

The events of the story take place in 1327 when the narrator Adso of Melk is a young novice travelling as scribe to Brother William. They arrive at a Benedictine abbey in the mountains of northern Italy, where a monk appears to have died by suicide, although the abbot harbours doubts and asks William to investigate. When more murders follow it becomes clear that the deaths are related to the secrets of the library — one of the novel's great pleasures is puzzling out with William and Adso the rule of the labyrinth. All the clues to the mystery take the form of puzzles that the reader can attempt to solve as they go along: word games, puns, lateral thinking.

I feel compelled to acknowledge that there is one howling flaw in the novel and that is the representation of women. There is only one female character, and her sole function is to have sex with Adso, then meet a horrible fate. When I read the book at the age of 19 I was so wrapped up in its literary cleverness that this failed to register. Thirty years later the omission seems so egregious it's almost comical.

But if you can look past this, it remains for me the greatest historical detective story in modern literature and one that rewards repeated re-reading. Many authors, myself included, have written under its influence and been flattered by comparison; no one else has ever come close.

Stephanie Merritt writes historical fiction as SJ Parris. *Alchemy* by SJ Parris is out now (HarperCollins, £9.99)

Israelophobia: the oldest hatred's new face?

This clumsy polemic argues that ancient antisemitism has morphed into Israel hate. By Roger Boyes

The job of press attaché at the Israeli embassy in London is traditionally a tough one, the equivalent, I imagine, of being sent to the salt mines in Tsarist Russia. Their task is not so much to identify and call out antisemitism in the newspapers — hooked-nose caricatures of moneybagged Jews have become mercifully rare — as to ensure that it does not mutate into a more politically acceptable but still insidious anti-Zionism. This is the book for these press wranglers: the transition from ancient Jew-hate to 21st-century Israel-hate is the subject of Jake Wallis Simons's *Israelophobia*, which is part polemic, part handbook for dealing with anti-Zionism.

The book kicks off with a neat bit of reportage outside the Israeli embassy in London. Demonstrators grasping Palestinian flags were facing off a pro-Israel crowd. In the Middle East Israel had just hit back against Hamas attacks. "The difference between us and them," a bearded pro-Palestinian rabble-rouser megaphoned, "is that for them, they think life begins. For us, we believe that death begins. We believe that life begins at death. We don't care about death. We love death." At its fanatic edges, Wallis Simons contends, anti-Zionism is a death cult. It fights for the extinction of Israel.

Anti-Zionist rhetoric demonises Israel as an apartheid state, as a colonial imposition on indigenous people, as an aggressive, polarising police state. It weaponises hatred for Israel by encouraging cross-fertilisation between western liberals and Islamist fanatics and parrots the lies of Nazi and Soviet propaganda. The slogan "Zionism is racism"? Cooked up, Wallis Simons says, in Cold War Moscow.

The author is the editor of The Jewish Chronicle and his book is written with the pages-to-fill urgency of weekly journalism. That is to say, not very well. He identifies the problem well enough, but advances only jumbled talking points and for a short book there is a remarkable amount of repetition.

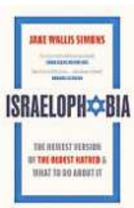
His fundamental argument is taken from Ze'ev Jabotinsky, the early-20th-century Zionist writer. "We are a people as all other peoples; we do not have any intentions to be better than the rest. As one of the first conditions for equality we demand the right to have our own villains, exactly as other people have them."

For Wallis Simons that is a cue for great splurges of whataboutism. Here he is on the 5,000 terror attacks — although that includes quite a bit of rock throwing — inflicted on Israel in 2022: "If New Jersey was uprooted and set in Israel's place, would the US military kill fewer civilians? Would the British army, if Wales landed alongside Syria, Lebanon and Gaza? Would the French?" These thought experiments are peppered throughout the book and reach the same conclusion: "Under the influence of Israelophobia, the media routinely presents Israel's carefully calibrated acts of self-defence as aggression, while playing down the attacks it faces."

LUKE MACGREGOR/REUTERS



Protests outside Israel's London embassy in July 2014 after the country bombed the Gaza Strip



Israelophobia
The Newest Version of the Oldest Hatred and What to Do About It
by Jake Wallis Simons
Constable, 224pp; £12.99

But does the Israeli government never overreact? Is it really ipso facto anti-Zionism to criticise the actions of Israel? Sometimes Wallis Simons makes a fair point: the apparent news value of Palestinian victimhood can distort the actual sequence of events. Who shot first? Who retaliated? The Israel defence forces have strict orders about when and how to shoot in urban areas; the Palestinian Islamic Jihad does not. Whose version do you trust? Perhaps too much sympathy with the Gazan underdog creeps into media coverage and commentary.

Perhaps, just perhaps, that biased coverage reflects some kind of simmering resentment that modern young Israelis are fighters. "Israel does not conform to our mental image of Jews queueing for the gas chambers … its citizens are physically strong, patriotic and assertive, a long way from self-hating Woody Allen stereotypes," writes Wallis Simons, who then quotes the American writer Dara Horn: "People love dead Jews. Living Jews, not so much."

However, the author tries too often to carry an argument with nonsensical number-crunching. About 180 Palestinian combatants and civilians lost their lives last year in the Israel-Palestinian conflict, he writes, "compared to 120,000 Ukrainians and 3,000 Yemenis killed or injured in the same period. Yet between January and April 2023, the Twitter account of human rights NGO Amnesty UK — a progressive redoubt — posted no tweets at all about Yemen, two about the war in Ukraine, six about Taliban oppression in Afghanistan, seven about the brutal crackdowns in Iran, and 26 about Israeli 'apartheid' and other supposed crimes."

The key word there is: progressive. In his broad-brush polemic, the BBC, Amnesty and The Guardian are part of a left-leaning conspiracy against Israel. They take their place in the Simons Hall of Shame alongside left-wing academics and groups who harass Jewish students and Israeli speakers without much sense of the gradations between them. There are points to be made about agitprop on some campuses, but he needed to dig more rather than cut and paste news stories.

He admits sometimes that the Israeli government isn't perfect, but then swiftly moves on to the unremarked massacres in Myanmar or the Turkish oppression of the Kurds. In the end his argument boils down to: why does everyone pick on Israel? "The hostility heaped on the Middle East's only democratic state, and the only Jewish country on earth, dwarfs that directed at the cruellest autocracies. It is smeared in the most lurid terms, accused of everything from ethnic cleansing to white supremacy, colonialism, infanticide and mass murder."

Methinks he protesteth too much. My experience over the past decades is that there is still a broad sympathy for Israel and a centrist consensus that Hamas and Hezbollah, determined to destroy Israel as a state, are a bad lot. There is no public outcry, for instance, about Israeli raids on Iranian Revolutionary Guard arms depots in Syria; we know what the Iranian and Syrian regimes are capable of.

But it's precisely because Israel is a democracy under threat from outside that we are nervous about a possible erosion of Israel institutions. The governing coalition of Binyamin Netanyahu is probably the most hardline in Israel's history. Its attempts to constrain the supreme court's powers have prompted huge demonstrations. The protests reflect not just a fear (probably overstated) of the drift to autocracy, but also the divide between secular and religious Israel. It is a polarised society, even Israel's friends can see that. And it's right that we join in the Israeli debate. That's not antisemitism, not anti-Zionism. Wallis Simons would have made a stronger case against anti-Zionism if he had set out the arguments for keeping democracy robust in Israel, for the need to maintain checks and balances in a state that always has reason to fear for its security.

He quotes the US writer Dara Horn: 'People love dead Jews. Living Jews, not so much'

paperbacks

Bournville by Jonathan Coe
Viking, 368pp; £9.99
A warm-hearted, centrist dad, state-of-the-nation novel. We follow four generations of one family in a Birmingham suburb, from VE day to the Covid-19 pandemic. "Jonathan Coe's stock-in-trade is to give us big ideas wrapped in a pretty tissue of nostalgic detail and funny domestic scenes, and *Bournville* is a classic example of this technique, albeit sometimes at the expense of the depth and wit of his best-loved works," wrote the reviewer Melissa Katsoulis. For readers new to him, start with *The Rotters Club* or *What a Carve Up!* They are terrific.

Ready for Absolutely Nothing by Susannah Constantine
Michael Joseph, 368pp; £10.99
This autobiography reads like a Jilly Cooper novel — a gossipy romp through the life of a woman who found fame as a posh It girl in the 1980s, then had a second-act career as a TV fashion pundit with her best friend, Trinny Woodall, in *What Not to Wear*. "Constantine comes across as a trooper with a filthy sense of humour and a wry take on the sadnesses of her life and the absurdities of her class," was Hilary Rose's verdict.

Pretty Young Rebel: The Life of Flora Macdonald by Flora Fraser
Bloomsbury, 320pp; £10.99
Flora Fraser rescues Flora Macdonald, the heroine of the Jacobite cause, from her romantic biscuit-tin image. She was more than just a rescuer of Bonnie Prince Charlie — she ended up in the American colonies, supporting the loyalists against upstart revolutionaries. The life in full, including the overlooked, unromantic bits.

The Song of the Cell: The Story of Life by Siddhartha Mukherjee
Vintage, 496pp; £12.99. Out Sep 14
Siddhartha Mukherjee won the Pulitzer Prize for non-fiction for his "biography of cancer", *The Emperor of All Maladies*. This time he has turned his mind to an even bigger subject, a study of cells. Tom Whipple, in his mainly positive review, marvelled at the ambition: "The range of topics covered is vast: the brain, the heart, stem cells, the immune system, amoeboids. Mukherjee's problem is that the cell is the building block of everything that lives — which makes focusing the book, or even giving it a narrative, nigh-on impossible." This week it was longlisted for the Baillie Gifford Prize for Non-Fiction.

Chip War: The Fight for the World's Most Critical Technology by Chris Miller *Simon & Schuster, 464pp; £10.99*
The microchip is of huge geopolitical importance — our lives would grind to a halt without it. So the battle for semiconductor supremacy, and who owns and controls microchip manufacturers, really matters. Could it even cause a third world war? "Chris Miller has produced an essential, engrossing landmark study combining technology, economic analysis, geopolitics and good old-fashioned storytelling," wrote the reviewer Iain Martin. *Chip War* was the winner of the 2022 FT Business Book of the Year Award.

books



How to scupper a second chance

A twisted rom-com by stand-up Sara Pascoe, a beauty-based gothic horror — and more. By Siobhan Murphy

popular fiction

Book of the month

Weirdo by Sara Pascoe
Faber, 368pp; £14.99
The comedian Sara Pascoe has always offered an off-kilter view of the world. After forays into non-fiction, her debut novel is a no-holds-barred depiction of what it's like to be an overthinking, emotionally pummelled girl in an adult's world.

When Chris walks into the dismal Essex pub Sophie works at, it seems like fate. This is the man she chased, hopelessly, to Australia, using credit cards taken out at her boyfriend James's address that she has failed to pay off. Now, saddled with debt, in a flaccid relationship with Ian, and dealing with James's engagement to her toxic sister, maybe she has a second chance with the man of her dreams. But, as her meandering, self-loathing inner monologue reveals, if anyone can scupper a second chance, it's Sophie. A misfit observer obsessed with how others see her, she careens from one disaster to the next.

Pascoe conjures up some exquisitely toxic relationships and torturous set pieces — including a deliberately excruciating sex scene — and meshes absurd musings and wry humour with bone-deep sadness as Sophie grapples with her shaky grip on reality. It's an utterly twisted rom-com that will leave you winded.

Rouge by Mona Awad
Scribner, 384pp; £16.99
The Canadian author Mona Awad's "dark academia"-style novel *Bunny* prompted a wave of BookTok adulation. *Rouge* similarly plays with fairytale and horror conventions, taking aim at the beauty industry in a tale of the insidious damage of envy and our preoccupation with appearances. Anyone maintaining a ten-step Korean skincare regimen may feel seen.

The half-Egyptian Mirabelle spends her time in a world of acids, serums, essences, mists and eye formulas that make her weep, chasing a beauty ideal embodied by her red-haired, blue-eyed, fair-skinned mother, Noelle.

Mother and daughter are estranged, but Noelle's mysterious death draws Belle to southern California. She finds a flat full of cracked mirrors and red face cream jars, huge debts and a cultlike beauty spa called Rouge, which seems to hold the key to her mother's demise and whose odd procedures extract a heavy price for breathtaking "brightening".

Awad ramps up the grand guignol hysteria rather splendidly, chucking in some film noir tropes for good measure as we hurtle towards a demonic denouement.

The Wake-Up Call by Beth O'Leary
Quercus, 416pp; £16.99
Beth O'Leary, the author of the phenomenally successful *The Flatshare*, offers standard enemies-to-lovers fare, but delivered with verve. When the cutesy Izzy writes a full confession of her feelings for her hunky Brazilian co-worker, Lucas, in his Christmas card, and gets a far from welcome response, the pair end up at daggers drawn working the same shift on the front desk of the run-down Forest Manor Hotel. *Flatshare*-style alternating chapters reveal Izzy and Lucas's take on the situation. Hurt and humiliated, and convinced Lucas is an "emotionless uptight perfectionist", Izzy is nonetheless still attracted to him. Is it normal to want to have sex with someone you hate? Lucas is mainly confused about why she has turned so hostile.

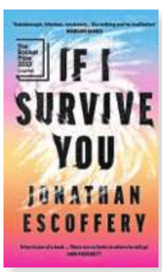
The pair are forced to work more closely together when the hotel's parlous finances require some imaginative fundraising work. Will their agreement to have no-strings sex to get each other "out of their systems" really solve things? Erm, no.

How (Not) to Have an Arranged Marriage by Amir Khan
Macmillan, 480pp; £16.99
The TV doctor Amir Khan has turned his hand to fiction in this tale about a Pakistani family navigating romance in Britain. Yousef met Jessica when they studied medicine in London, but he broke her heart when he decided his parents would not accept her. Now they are working in the same hospital, and the spark between them is still there. His sister, Rehana, is languishing, adrift and unmotivated at home, but their mother, Feroza, has plans for both children. She employs a matchmaker to find suitable marriage candidates: the sexy Naveen ticks all Rehana's boxes, but Yousef, again smitten with Jess, looks likely to derail everyone's future happiness. The formidable Feroza, with her manic status envy, is fun, and the argument for arranged marriages is oddly persuasive. But be warned: you may have an urge to punch selfish, indulged Yousef.

Angelika Frankenstein Makes Her Match by Sally Thorne
Piatkus, 354pp; £9.99
"Angelika Frankenstein knew what physical qualities her ideal man should have; unfortunately, she had to find those attributes at the morgue." So begins this mad excursion into Victorian fan-fiction by the Aussie Sally Thorne, of *The Hating Game* fame. It's 1814, and the orphaned aristocratic Frankenstein siblings, Victor and Angelika, live in a mansion outside Salisbury, merrily carrying out experiments in reanimation. Angelika decides to stitch together her perfect man — a handsome face, blacksmith's torso and "the second-largest penis in their inventory". He duly lumbers into life, but "Will" has an annoyingly high sense of morals and ethics, and wants to establish his real identity before bonking the baroness. Meanwhile, Victor's creation is Awol and scaring the locals. It's unapologetically loopy stuff, as overheated as a carriage ride over cobblestones.

White couple seek black guy

This Booker-longlisted story collection charts the downward spiral of a man in Noughties Miami. By Claire Allfree



If I Survive You
by Jonathan Escoffery
4th Estate, 272pp; £14.99

Fairly early on in Jonathan Escoffery's Booker-longlisted collection of interlinked stories, Trelawny answers a Craigslist advert posted by a woman who is seeking a stranger to hit her in the face for a photo project. The ad emphasises "no black guys", but Trelawny, whose parents are Jamaican but who is light-skinned enough to be confused for Arab or even white, turns up anyway. The woman explains that the problem is her father, who once beat her sister for bringing home a black guy. "You're like the twelfth white woman to have told me that story," Trelawny tells her. "I'm Latina," she says. "Brown."

We never find out what particular psychosis drove the woman to desire a beating. Rather, the story illustrates the disorientating, even neurotic complexity of race and perception in America, an identity crisis so pervasive it elsewhere in the book prompts a young Jewish student to worry whether she is white enough. "Oh you're white," her companion, a Mexican woman, reassures her. "Don't worry."

More specifically, the story illustrates the increasingly desperate downwards spiral of Trelawny, a promising Eng lit major born in Miami who struggles to find employment in the recession-ravaged Noughties. One of his jobs includes being paid to watch a white couple have sex: they specifically request a black guy. By the end of the book he is practically homeless, although this is pointedly not a book designed to repeat clichés about the shattered immigrant dream.

Quite what sort of book it is is harder to pin down. It's not quite a short story collection, nor quite a novel. Rather, it's a series of impressionistic, disconnected chapters that take in snapshots of Trelawny's cousin Cukie, elder brother Delano and father, Topper, who fled the violence in Jamaica in the 1970s to make a life for himself and his family in Miami.

At school Trelawny, whose light-skinned parents never mention race, is astonished to discover he is black and starts eating "jerked and curried everything" in an attempt to connect with a Jamaican identity he doesn't feel or know. The main thrust, though, concerns his fraught relationship with his errant feckless father, which takes on biblical proportions as he grows into adulthood.

The stories veer off in different directions, but essentially tread the same territory: of fathers consumed by shame; of sons eaten up by resentment and despair; of an immigrant family battered in turn by Hurricane Andrew, the 2008 financial crash and by an America that at times it struggles to survive.



Escoffery, *left*, is blistering on race. It's probably what caught the attention of the Booker judges. That, and his playful approach to form: the perspective jumps about between first, second and third person; the narrative voices take in Jamaican patois and academic introspection; and the tone veers from the essayistic, in the opening chapter *Flux*, to the black comedy crime caper of *If He Suspected He'd Get Someone Killed This Morning, Delano Would Never Leave His House.* With each shift the reader is forced to readjust their perception of Trelawny, whose life is seen from multiple angles to such an extent he appears to contain multiple selves. "What are you?" he asks himself rhetorically in the first story, and it's a question that pointedly is never fully answered.

Yet the kaleidoscopic form sometimes works against itself. The loose associations between each story (houses, and their fragility, are a recurring motif, as is the swampy funk of Miami, brilliantly captured) and the ever present whiff of Cain and Abel-style discord between Trelawny and his brother can't prevent this book from feeling frustratingly diffuse. The restless structure certainly reflects a set of characters estranged from themselves, but to the reader they always feel just out of focus. Still, Escoffery writes the most stinging sentences. "I felt sick with hatred," Trelawny thinks on his encounter with the Latina woman. "For her father, yes, but for all fathers, for their propensity for passing down the worst of themselves."

bestsellers

The Oxford historian Peter Frankopan faced an epic tussle in the spring. His weighty tome *The Earth Transformed,* the fruit of years of research and thinking, swept up the charts to No 2. Alas, it was blocked from the top slot by *The Ultimate Air Fryer Cookbook* ("Stupid air fryers," he tweeted).

The next week *Bored of Lunch: The Healthy Air Fryer Book* bested him, keeping him in second place ("You have got to be kidding. Again. And different stupid air fryers," he tweet-lamented.)

Well, there's a new air fryer cookbook in town and that must mean bad news for someone. If we were Mary Beard we'd postpone the publication date (Sep 28) of her new book, *Emperor of Rome*, to avoid the indignity of being frankopanned.

Paperback Fiction

1 (2) Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow **Gabrielle Zevin** *Vintage £9.99*
2 (1) The Whalebone Theatre **Joanna Quinn** *Penguin £9.99*
3 (new) The Skeleton Key **Erin Kelly** *Hodder £9.99*
4 (5) Lessons in Chemistry **Bonnie Garmus** *Penguin £9.99*
5 (3) Those People Next Door **Kia Abdullah** *HQ £9.99*
6 (7) Days at the Morisaki Bookshop **Satoshi Yagisawa** *Manilla £10.99*
7 (6) The Marriage Portrait **Maggie O'Farrell** *Tinder £9.99*
8 (8) The Satsuma Complex **Bob Mortimer** *Simon & Schuster £8.99*
9 (9) Demon Copperhead **Barbara Kingsolver** *Faber £9.99*
10 (–) Murder in the Family **Cara Hunter** *Blue Door £8.99*

Hardback Fiction

1 (7) In Memoriam **Alice Winn** *Viking £14.99*
2 (new) So Late in the Day **Claire Keegan** *Faber £8.99*
3 (4) Yellowface **Rebecca Kuang** *Borough £16.99*
4 (2) Fourth Wing **Rebecca Yarros** *Piatkus £20*
5 (new) The Raging Storm **Ann Cleeves** *Macmillan £22*
6 (8) What You Are Looking for Is in the Library **Michiko Aoyama** *Doubleday £12.99*
7 (new) Herc **Phoenicia Rogerson** *HarperCollins £16.99*
8 (3) Masters of Death **Olivie Blake** *Tor £20*
9 (5) Normal Rules Don't Apply **Kate Atkinson** *Doubleday £18.99*
10 (1) The Bone Season: Tenth anniversary special edition **Samantha Shannon** *Bloomsbury £20*

Paperback Non-fiction

1 (1) Murdle **GT Karber** *Souvenir £14.99*
2 (new) Agatha Christie **Lucy Worsley** *Hodder £10.99*
3 (3) I Want to Die but I Want to Eat Tteokbokki **Baek Sehee** *Bloomsbury £9.99*
4 (2) The World: A Family History **Simon Sebag Montefiore** *Weidenfeld & Nicolson £14.99*
5 (4) American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J Robert Oppenheimer **Kai Bird & Martin J Sherwin** *Atlantic £12.99*
6 (5) Atomic Habits **James Clear** *Random House Business £17.99*
7 (6) Undoctored **Adam Kay** *Trapeze £9.99*
8 (–) Surrounded by Idiots **Thomas Erikson** *Vermilion £10.99*
9 (8) Meditations **Marcus Aurelius** *Penguin £8.99*
10 (10) Everything I Know about Love **Dolly Alderton** *Penguin £10.99*

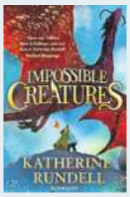
Hardback Non-fiction

1 (new) The Diary of a CEO: The 33 Laws of Business and Life **Steven Bartlett** *Ebury Edge £20*
2 (new) 5 Ingredients Mediterranean **Jamie Oliver** *Michael Joseph £28*
3 (1) Abroad in Japan **Chris Broad** *Bantam £16.99*
4 (7) Freddie Mercury: A World of His Own *Sotheby's £50*
5 (new) Hope: How Street Dogs Taught Me the Meaning of Life **Niall Harbison** *HarperCollins £18.99*
6 (5) Ultra-Processed People **Chris van Tulleken** *Cornerstone £22*
7 (–) The Story of Art without Men **Katy Hessel** *Hutchinson Heinemann £30*
8 (new) Poppy Cooks: The Actually Delicious Air Fryer Cookbook **Poppy O'Toole** *Bloomsbury £20*
9 (–) 1964: Eyes of the Storm **Paul McCartney** *Allen Lane £60*
10 (3) Code of Conduct **Chris Bryant** *Bloomsbury £14.99*

Waterstones THE NUMBER IN PARENTHESES REPRESENTS CHART POSITIONS LAST WEEK. DATA SUPPLIED BY AND COPYRIGHT TO NIELSEN BOOKSCAN, TAKEN FROM THE TOTAL CONSUMER MARKET FOR THE WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 2

children's book of the week

The heir to CS Lewis and JJR Tolkien? By Lucy Bannerman



Impossible Creatures
by Katherine Rundell (9-12)
Bloomsbury; 368pp; £10.99

Within the first few pages of any book by Katherine Rundell, you know you are in the company of a class act. Admirers from Neil Gaiman to Philip Pullman talk of her in the same breath as JRR Tolkien and CS Lewis, so *Impossible Creatures*, the first novel in a much-trumpeted trilogy and her most ambitious children's book to date, comes with quite the drumroll.

Where there was Narnia and Middle-earth, we have the Archipelago, "a wild magnificence of a place: a land where all the creatures of myth still live and thrive". But something is wrong. For months, Mal has been spotting signs of decay as she flies from island to island in her magical coat. A unicorn foal, "pure-gold", was stillborn. The krakens are straying into unfamiliar waters. The griffins have all but disappeared.

For reasons unknown, but no less alarming, Mal is also being pursued by a murderer. Enter Christopher, a boy from the human world who climbs the forbidden hill behind his grandfather's house to find the portal to this cluster of islands long forgotten by the rest of humanity. They embark on a quest to save these mysterious creatures from extinction.



I was wary: I love Rundell precisely because she writes original, timeless adventure stories that are not fantasy, yet still manage to be magical. Might *Impossible Creatures* be a conventional fantasy like all the rest? The answer is… of course not, as becomes instantly clear from the "Guardian's Bestiary", which kick-starts the story with an alphabetic glossary of all the creatures we are about to encounter: "If you should fail to answer the riddle they pose, the sphinx has an ancient right to eat you."

The action is gripping. Every sentence sparkles. You can feel the flutter of griffin feathers and the menace of strange poisonous shrews.

This is not merely a book for fans of *His Dark Materials*. It feels like the story Lyra Belacqua might have written had she decided to put away the alethiometer and embark on a real-world career as a publishing sensation. (It's no coincidence that in the author notes Rundell says she too loves "climbing across the rooftops of Oxford, late at night".) Magnificent.

T AUDIO



What I Wish I'd Known

LISTEN NOW

In this weekly podcast, sporting icons, politicians and other well-known figures give their first-hand accounts on how they achieved success in the face of adversity. Featuring guests such as Brian Cox, Fatima Whitbread, Richard Branson and Tom Daley.

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Critic's choice
Wilderness
Fri, Prime Video

As anyone who enjoys bonkbuster novels will know, when a caddish partner cheats on you, don't get mad, get even. Revenge! We've also seen this in every TV adultery drama, from *The Politician's Wife* to *Doctor Foster*. What differs is how the revenge is dished up. In the case of six-parter *Wilderness*, it's served hot during a road trip across America. A young woman (Jenna Coleman) discovers her husband (Oliver Jackson-Cohen) is a cheat soon after they move to New York. In a strangely semi-Welsh accent, she murmurs: "Revenge … it's nothing more than hunter and prey. But the most delicious kind is the one where they don't even know they're the prey… until it's too late!"

The plot thickens in Yosemite when the other woman turns up (with hunky boyfriend), and the plot turns into a psychological cat-and-mouse game, one that can be generally summed up by the conspicuous use of Taylor Swift's *Look What You Made Me Do* on the soundtrack. Revenge: always the guiltiest pleasure of all.
James Jackson


Jenna Coleman in Wilderness

Radio choice
The Gift
Mon, Radio 4, 11am

What is it like to discover that the person you thought was your dad isn't your biological father? That the people you thought were your grandparents or siblings are also something else entirely? And to then find out that this is because sperm that someone handed over at a clinic in the 1960s was used to impregnate a stranger without the donor's apparent permission?

In this eye-opening new series, the presenter Jenny Kleeman uncovers a host of fascinating and troubling stories that came about when people unwrapped DNA tests — the "gift" of the title — revealing exactly the opposite of a jolly birthday present.

Kleeman has written about some of these stories before, but that does not detract from the series. And the focus of her investigations in episode one, a clinic in Harley Street once run by a fertility doctor called Reynold Boyd, is fascinating, especially given the lively concision with which the tale is told.

Kleeman is also aware of the wider social context — how identity is of such importance to so many these days, and how that partly explains why lots of us are undertaking DNA tests. Above all, though, those who tell their stories consistently impress with their honesty, openness and fortitude.
Ben Dowell

Best of the rest

Last Night of the Proms
Today, BBC2, 7pm/BBC1, 9pm
Marin Alsop conducts, and the cellist Sheku Kanneh-Mason, *right*, offers superstar quality.



Laura Kuenssberg: State of Chaos
Mon, BBC2, 9pm
Not Kuenssberg in a state of chaos but British politics, as she explores in a three-part analysis from Brexit to Liz Truss.

My Mum, Your Dad
Mon-Fri, ITV1, 9pm
A new reality show populated by middle-aged divorcees and widows looking for love in a country house. Not quite "Love Handle Island", it's instead unashamed schmaltz.

A Very Singular Man
Mon, BBC4, 10.10pm
Michael Cockerell recalls one of the most challenging encounters of his career (at 10pm) before a repeat of his 1998 film portrait of Edward Heath.

The Morning Show
Wed, AppleTV+
Series three of the starry *Broadcast News*-ish drama and, by now, Jennifer Aniston's anchor Alex Levy is, absurdly, about to go into space thanks to Jon Hamm's billionaire. It's actually sharply addictive too.

Celebrity Race Across the World
Wed, BBC1, 9pm
Race Across the World is one of BBC1's most popular formats, so here's the inevitable celebrity version, with famous people you may not have heard of traversing the globe on land from Morocco to Norway by way of 24 countries. It's engaging and will no doubt be a hit. **JJ**

The best films

The Little Mermaid (PG)
Disney+
The live-action musical update has a charismatic turn by Halle Bailey, *below*, as the mermaid Ariel, with Javier Bardem and Melissa McCarthy offering fun support.



Funny People (15)
Today, Comedy Central, 9pm
Adam Sandler is an ailing comedian mentoring Seth Rogen's aspiring one in Judd Apatow's long but smart tale of Los Angeles lives.

Parasite (15)
Sun, Channel 4, midnight
Satire and horror collide in the Korean Oscar-winner about a poor family scheming their way into the lives of a wealthy one.

What Ever Happened to Baby Jane? (12)
Mon, BBC2, 11.15pm
The gothic rivalry between ageing showbiz vamps Bette Davis and Joan Crawford is still fantastically warped. **JJ**

Podcast choice
The Rest Is Money
A series about business and the economy slickly presented by Robert Peston and Steph McGovern. The first episode deals with, among other things, the collapse of the high street chain Wilko, the state of the UK stock market and falling European wine consumption.
James Marriott



TIMES Documentaries

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Critic's choice
Live Rugby World Cup
ITV1, 2pm/7.15pm

The opening England game of a Rugby World Cup would usually have the oval-ball brigade giddy with excitement, but it's difficult to think of a tournament when the team have started with so little hype, or indeed hope. Still scarred by the Eddie Jones era, performances under the new coach Steve Borthwick, *right*, have been distinctly underwhelming. Not only have the warm-up matches resulted in the suspensions of the captain Owen Farrell for the first two games and the No 8 Billy Vunipola for this opener, England also experienced the ignominy of losing to Fiji for the first time. This follows a disappointing Six Nations campaign that featured a defeat by Scotland and a 53-10 tonking by France, both at Twickenham. Added to that, Argentina come into this game on the back of some excellent performances. Mark Pougatch presents live coverage of the match from 7.15pm (kick-off is at 8pm). He is aided by a capable roster of pundits for the tournament that includes Jonny Wilkinson, Brian O'Driscoll and Maggie Alphonsi in the studio, with pitchside contributions from Jill Douglas, Bryan Habana, Sean Fitzpatrick and Benjamin Kayser. Commentary comes from Miles Harrison, Ben Kay and Jamie Roberts. Anyone hoping for almost guaranteed success should tune into Ireland v Romania (from 2pm; kick-off 2.30pm), as the world's top-ranked side aim for a successful World Cup campaign after their first series victory in New Zealand last summer and a Six Nations grand slam. Today's other games are Italy v Namibia (kick-off 12pm) and Australia v Georgia (5pm). Ben Dowell



Live International Football
Channel 4, 4pm

Gareth Southgate's England side head to Wroclaw in Poland to face Ukraine in this Uefa Euro 2024 qualifier. The Three Lions have a 100 per cent record so far in qualifying, and scored a whopping 11 goals in their most recent two matches against Malta and North Macedonia. But they will face a sterner test against the Ukrainians, who sit second in Group C after winning two of their three matches so far. Jules Breach presents, with analysis from Joe Cole, Jill Scott and the former Ukraine player Andriy Shevchenko. **BD**

Last Night of the Proms
BBC2, 7pm/BBC1, 9pm

The cellist Sheku Kanneh-Mason, the soprano Lise Davidsen, the conductor Marin Alsop and the BBC Symphony Orchestra Chorus and Singers are the stars of this patriotic knees-up. Presented by Katie Derham, with Sandi Toksvig and Danielle de Niese guesting, the first half includes music by Verdi, Wagner, Bruch and Mascagni, and the premiere of the young composer James B Wilson's short piece *1922*, commemorating the BBC's centenary last year. And then it's time for the flags and *Rule, Britannia!*, *Jerusalem* and *Land of Hope and Glory*. **BD**

Roddy & Margaret: The Affair that Shook the Royals
Channel 5, 9pm

This latest talking-heads-and-clips job relates the oft-told story of Princess Margaret's dalliance with the gardener Roddy Llewellyn, who was 18 years her junior, on the beaches of Mustique. Did this put the kibosh on her fiery marriage to Lord Snowdon, it asks. The bigger question concerns the 1936 abdication crisis. Had the princess's immediate family not been thrust into the line of succession she would have been a minor royal. But would she have been happier? **BD**

Bali 2002
ITV1, 10.25pm

This four-part Australian drama exploring the terrorist attacks on the Indonesian island comes to ITV1 after a premiere on ITVX. Claudia Jessie plays the British newlywed Polly Miller and Sean Keenan the Australian Rules footballer Jason McCartney, whose lives were changed for ever when two of Bali's busiest nightclubs were targeted in blasts that killed 38 local people and 164 foreign tourists. After the mayhem, which is shown in graphic detail, the investigation begins, with Rachel Griffiths entering the fray as a plastic surgeon and Richard Roxburgh as a determined Australian police commander. **BD**

Films of the day

Dunkirk (12, 2017)
BBC1, 10.30pm

Christopher "*Oppenheimer*" Nolan's nerve-shredding masterpiece largely does away with dialogue in favour of an assault of sound and vision (it won three Oscars — for film editing, sound editing and sound mixing). The evacuation features stirring performances by Mark Rylance, Kenneth Branagh, Tom Hardy and Fionn Whitehead, and a monumental, clock-ticking, Elgar-sampling score by Hans Zimmer. Immersive experiences are in vogue, but *Dunkirk* sucks you into its world without 3D, CGI, virtual reality or other jiggerypokery. From the opening scene, in which Allied soldiers fight through Dunkirk streets to emerge on to a yawning beach, to the exquisite finale, involving a train carriage and birdsong, this is vivid film-making. (102min) **Ed Potton**



Songbird (15, 2020)
Channel 4, 2.15am

Michael Bay's high-octane action satire was conceived and filmed during the pandemic and treads a delicate path between giddy exploitation and provocative social commentary. The setting is Los Angeles in 2024, with the coronavirus having mutated into the ultra-lethal Covid-23. Nico (KJ Apa) is one of a few residents immune to the virus and derided by the populace as "muney scum". Martial law has been declared and department-of-sanitation kill squads roam the streets. When Nico's girlfriend, Sara (Sofia Carson), is threatened with deportation to a squalid refugee camp for infected Americans he's forced to extort "immunity passes" from the rich socialite Piper Griffin (Demi Moore, *above*) — which is when the trouble really begins. (90min) **Kevin Maher**

Catch up

The Wheel of Time
Prime Video

Prime Video's other huge quasi-medieval fantasy saga (ie the one that's not *The Lord of the Rings*) returns. Those who invested their time in this expensive fantasy were sucked in enough for not just a second series to be commissioned, but a third. Once again, a glacial Rosamund Pike is the star at the heart of events as Moiraine Damodred, *below*, with Rand al'Thor (Joshua Stradowski), who thought he had destroyed the Dark One, but evil is not gone from the world. Threats new and very old seek out the young heroes from the village of Two Rivers, who are now scattered round the world. To explain more seems unnecessary, but the writers have had their work cut out adapting the dense plotlines — Robert Jordan's *Wheel of Time* books stand at 14 volumes, plus a prequel. **James Jackson**



Regional programmes

● **BBC1 Wales As BBC1 except: 3.45pm** Garden Rescue. Arit Anderson and Harry and David Rich transform a garden in Bath (r) **4.30** Truckers: Life on the Road. Radio DJ Jagger prepares for his HGV test (r) **5.00-5.30pm** Weatherman Walking. In the South Wales Valleys, Derek Brockway meets celebrity artist Nathan Wyburn (r)

● **BBC2 Wales As BBC2 except: 6.20pm** Nigel Slater's Simple Cooking. The food writer makes a Mediterranean dish of pepper, tomato and basil pasta (r) **6.30-7.00pm** Wynne's Welsh 70s. Wynne Evans explores the BBC Wales archive (r)

● **STV As ITV1 except: 4.20-5.05am** Night Vision. News, sport and weather

● **BBC Scotland 6.45pm** The Seven **7.00** Live Scottish Masters Cup 2023. Emma Dodds presents live coverage of the six-a-side tournament from Braehead Arena in Glasgow as former Celtic, Rangers, Hearts and Hibernian stars compete **10.00** Scot Squad. Karen takes part in a revolutionary experiment (r) **10.30** Rab C Nesbitt. Shug attempts to open a pie shop — until his plans are thwarted by the local Mafia (r) **11.00** The Edit. Entertainment news **11.15pm-Midnight** What Next for the Wellerman? Singer Nathan Evans aims to make it big in the pop world (r)

● **S4C 6.00am** Cyw: Odo (r) **6.10** Caru Canu a Stori (r) **6.20** Pablo (r) **6.35** Ahoi! (r) **6.50** Sam Tân (r) **7.00** Sion y Chef (r) **7.15** Tomos a'i Ffrindiau (r) **7.25** Dreigiau Cadi (r) **7.35** Crawc a'i Ffrindiau (r) **7.45** Byd Tad-Cu (r) **8.00** Siwrne Ni (r) **8.05** Dyffryn Mwmin (r) **8.25** Byd Rwtsh Dai Potsh (r) **8.35** Lego DREAMZzz (r) **8.55** Cath-Od (r) **9.10** Rhyfeddodau Chwilengoch a Cath Ddu (r) **9.35** Gwrach y Rhibyn (r) **10.00** Ty am Ddim (r) **11.00** Adre (r) **11.30** Richard Holt: Yr Academi Felys (r) **12.00** Ffermio (r) **12.30pm** Y 'Sgubor Flodau (r) **1.30** Cynefin (r) **2.30** Dau Gi Bach (r) **3.00** Garddio a Mwy (r) **3.30** Yn y Fan a'r Lle (r) **4.00** Sain Ffagan (r) **4.30** Cymry ar Gynfas (r) **5.00** Live Sgorio: Bala Town v Queen's Park. Coverage of the Scottish Challenge Cup third-round match at Maes Tegid. Kickoff 5.15. **7.20** News **7.30** Am Dro! Featuring a coastal walk from Penarth to Sully (r) **8.30** Priodas Pum Mil. Organising a wedding for Manon and Marc from Conwy (r) **9.30** Anfamol (r) **10.00** Seiclo: Vuelta a España. Action from stage 14, which consisted of a 156.5km route from Sauveterre-de-Bearn in France to Larra-Belagua **10.30-12.05** Clasuron Cwpan Rygbi'r Byd. Archive action

(r) **repeat** (SL) **In-vision signing**

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Saturday 9

BBC1

6.00am Breakfast **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. Matt Tebbutt is joined by chefs Marcus Wareing and Anna Haugh **11.30** The Great Food Guys (r) **12.00** Football Focus. Alex Scott looks ahead to the weekend's international fixtures **12.30pm** Mo Farah's Last Mile. Documentary on the British distance-running great **1.00** BBC News; Weather **1.15** Bargain Hunt (r) **2.00** Money for Nothing (r) **3.00** The Bidding Room (r) **3.45** Escape to the Country (r) **4.45** Garden Rescue (r) **5.30** BBC News **5.40** BBC Regional News; Weather **5.50** The Hit List. Marvin and Rochelle Humes host a *Strictly Come Dancing* special, joined by Tyler West, Dianne Buswell, Kym Marsh, James Bye, Molly Rainford and Carlos Gu **6.30** The Weakest Link. Hosted by Romesh Ranganathan (r)



The Hit List: Strictly special (5.50pm)

7.20 Pointless Celebrities Antony Costa, Megan McKenna. Natasha Raskin Sharp, Danny Sebastian, Ruby Bhogal, Shelina Permalloo, Jan Ravens and Alfie Brown compete in the quiz

8.10 Casualty Jan agrees to go to Switzerland with Gethin, but when she reveals her plans to Iain, he warns her that the decision could have devastating consequences for her

9.00 BBC Proms: Last Night of the Proms Katie Derham introduces the conclusion of the closing concert, joined by Sandi Toksvig and Danielle de Niese, featuring cellist Sheku Kanneh-Mason and soprano Lise Davidsen. **See Viewing Guide**

10.10 BBC News

10.25 Weather The latest forecast

10.30 FILM Dunkirk (12, 2017) Allied soldiers from Belgium, the British Empire and France are surrounded by the German army, and face a tense wait for evacuation, during a fierce battle in northern France during the Second World War. Christopher Nolan's wartime drama, which he wrote, directed and produced, starring Kenneth Branagh, Tom Hardy and Mark Rylance. **See Film Choice**

12.10am FILM 47 Meters Down: Uncaged (15, 2019) Two sisters diving in an underwater city learn they have entered the territory of a deadly shark species. Thriller sequel starring Sophie Nélisse **1.30** Weather for the Week Ahead **1.35** BBC News

BBC2

6.45am Hey Duggee (r) **7.00** Supertato (r) **7.05** Shaun the Sheep (r) **7.15** Dennis & Gnasher Unleashed! (r) **7.25** Boy Girl Dog Cat Mouse Cheese (r) **7.40** The Deep (r) **8.00** The Dengineers (r) **8.30** One Zoo Three (r) **8.50** Newsround **9.00** Blue Peter (r) **9.30** Deadly 60 (r) **10.00** Britain's Secret Seas (r) **11.00** Sort Your Life Out with Stacey Solomon (r) **12.00** Britain's Top Takeaways (r) **1.00pm** Live Rowing World Championships 2023. Coverage of the penultimate day of the annual event **2.45 FILM The Lady Vanishes (U, 1938)** Mystery with Margaret Lockwood and Michael Redgrave (b/w) **4.20** The Frozen North: Our Wild Adventures (r) **5.20** Richard Osman's House of Games (r) **5.50** Marcus Wareing's Tales from a Kitchen Garden **6.20** Flog It! (r)



Amy Winehouse on Later… (9pm)

7.00 BBC Proms: Last Night of the Proms Katie Derham presents live coverage from the Royal Albert Hall of the first part of the climax of the classical music festival, and is joined by guests Sandi Toksvig and Danielle de Niese. On stage, cellist Sheku Kanneh-Mason and Norwegian soprano Lise Davidsen join the BBC Symphony Orchestra and conductor Marin Alsop. The concert continues on BBC1 at 9.00pm. **See Viewing Guide**

9.00 Later... with Jools Holland: Amy Winehouse The singer's appearances on the show

9.35 Arena: Amy Winehouse — The Day She Came to Dingle The story of the singer-songwriter's acoustic performance on Irish television show *Other Voices*, filmed at St James's Church in the remote south-western town of Dingle in 2006 (r)

10.35 Amy Winehouse at Portchester Hall: BBC Sessions A 2007 showcase of tracks from the singer's albums *Back to Black* and *Frank* in the intimate surroundings of the venue in London's Bayswater (r)

11.25 Reclaiming Amy Singer Amy Winehouse's closest family and friends reveal the truth about her and the impact that her death has had on them (r)

12.25am Women's International ODI. England v Sri Lanka. Action from the opening match of the three-game series **12.55 FILM Master Cheng (2019)** Drama with Pak Hon Chu. In Finnish and Mandarin **2.50-3.50** Sign Zone: The Woman in the Wall (r) (SL)

ITV1

6.00am Love Your Garden (r) **6.30** Love Your Weekend with Alan Titchmarsh (r) **8.20** ITV News **8.25** Oti Mabuse's Breakfast Show **9.25** James Martin's Saturday Morning. With Ben Miller **11.20** ITV News; Weather **11.30** Live Rugby World Cup 2023: Italy v Namibia (Kick-off **12.00**). All the action from both teams' opening match in Pool A, at Stade Geoffroy-Guichard in Saint-Etienne, France **2.00pm** Live Rugby World Cup 2023: Ireland v Romania (Kick-off **2.30**). Pool B gets under way at Stade de Bordeaux. Commentary by Martin Gillingham and Gordon D'Arcy. **See Viewing Guide 4.45** Live Rugby World Cup 2023: Australia v Georgia (Kick-off **5.00**). Hugh Woozencroft presents the opening match in Pool C, held at Stade de France in Paris.



Claudia Jessie stars (10.25pm)

7.15 Live Rugby World Cup 2023: England v Argentina (Kick-off **8.00**). All the action from the first match in Pool D, held at Stade de Marseille in France. The sides also met in the pool stage four years ago, when England recorded a 39-10 victory with the help of tries by six different scorers. The victors went on to reach the final, where they were defeated by South Africa, while the Pumas missed out on a place in the knockout stage. Mark Pougatch presents, with analysis from Jonny Wilkinson, Clive Woodward and Lawrence Dallaglio, commentary by Nick Mullins and Ben Kay, and reports from Jill Douglas and Ugo Monye. **See Viewing Guide**

10.25 Bali 2002 New series. Two large explosions rip through packed nightclubs in Bali in Indonesia in 2002, leaving many dead and many more injured. Fact-based drama starring Claudia Jessie. **See Viewing Guide** (1/4)

11.25 ITV News

11.45 Gordon, Gino & Fred: Viva Espana! The trio head to Galicia in north-west Spain (2/2) (r)

12.45am English Football League Highlights. The latest fixtures, including Lincoln City v Oxford United (r) **1.45** The Chase (r) **2.40** Tipping Point (r) **3.30** Bali 2002 (r) (SL) **4.20** Unwind with ITV **5.05** James Martin's Spanish Adventure (r) (SL)

Channel 4

6.05am The King of Queens (r) **6.30** The King of Queens (r) **6.55** Cheers (r) **7.20** Cheers (r) **7.50** Everybody Loves Raymond (r) **8.20** Everybody Loves Raymond (r) **8.50** Everybody Loves Raymond (r) **9.20** The Simpsons (r) **9.50** The Simpsons (r) **10.15** The Simpsons (r) **10.45** The Simpsons (r) **11.15** The Simpsons (r) **11.45** The Simpsons (r) **12.10pm** Jamie's £1 Wonders (r) **1.10** Four in a Bed (r) **1.40** Four in a Bed (r) **2.10** Four in a Bed (r) **2.40** Four in a Bed (r) **3.15** Four in a Bed (r) **3.45** Channel 4 News. **4.00** Live International Football: Ukraine v England (Kick-off **5.00**). Action from the Uefa Euro 2024 Group C qualifier, held at Stadion Wroclaw in Poland, with analysis from Joe Cole, Jill Scott and Andriy Shevchenko. **See Viewing Guide**



Action thriller Skyscraper (7.45pm)

7.45 FILM Skyscraper (12, 2018) A former hostage negotiator takes a job as a security expert at the world's tallest building in Hong Kong. He finds himself framed for sabotage when the skyscraper bursts into flames. As he strives to clear his name, he must also fight his way back into the blazing tower to rescue his family, who are being held hostage by criminals 225 storeys up. Action thriller starring Dwayne Johnson, Neve Campbell and Chin Han

9.45 Gogglebox Armchair critics share their opinions on what they have been watching during the week (r)

10.15 England International Football Ukraine v England. Jules Breach presents action from the UEFA Euro 2024 Group C qualifier at Stadion Wroclaw in Poland, with analysis from Joe Cole, Jill Scott and Andriy Shevchenko

11.15 FILM Sir Alex Ferguson: Never Give In (12, 2021) Documentary following the life and career of the football manager, who won an unprecedented 38 trophies during his 26-year tenure in charge of Manchester United

1.25am Ramsay's 24 Hours to Hell and Back. Gordon Ramsay tries to help a restaurant in Mississippi (r) (SL) **2.15 FILM Songbird (15, 2020)** Sci-fi thriller with KJ Apa and Sofia Carson. **See Film Choice 3.45** Hollyoaks Omnibus (r) (SL) **5.50** Beat the Chef (r)

Channel 5

6.00am Milkshake! **9.55** The Smurfs (r) **10.10** SpongeBob SquarePants (r) **10.25** Entertainment News on 5 **10.35** Friends (r) **11.05** Friends (r) **11.35** Friends (r) **12.05pm** Friends (r) **12.35** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun (r) **1.35** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun. Two cafe owners try to cut costs and put down roots (r) **2.35** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun. A drag queen prepares to return to the stage (r) **3.30** Cruising the Nordics with Jane McDonald. Jane visits Tallinn, St Petersburg, Helsinki and Stockholm (r) **5.00** When Holidays Go Horribly Wrong. Tales of package holiday disasters, including a family whose Benidorm hotel room looked like a horror film set, and a man who found a huge lizard in the toilet during a Thai tour (r) **6.25** 5 News Weekend



Diaz and Law in The Holiday (10pm)

6.30 Growing Up Royal: The King's Grandchildren Examining the lives of the royal grandchildren, looking at how the King and Queen might navigate the complex dynamics of this very modern family (r)

8.00 Harry & Meghan: Has America Turned Against Them? A look at whether the Duke and Duchess of Sussex's popularity in the United States is on the wane amid heavy criticism and parody that has been levelled at them in recent weeks (r)

9.00 Roddy & Margaret: The Affair that Shook the Royals How Princess Margaret fell for baronet and garden designer Roderick Llewellyn while still married to the Earl of Snowdon. **See Viewing Guide**

10.00 FILM The Holiday (12, 2006) Two single women living on opposite sides of the Atlantic agree to exchange houses over the Christmas holidays. In their new surroundings, both women unexpectedly encounter prospective partners. Romantic comedy with Cameron Diaz, Kate Winslet, Jude Law, Jack Black, Eli Wallach and Rufus Sewell

12.40am Criminals: Caught on Camera (r) **1.00** Casino Show **3.00** Entertainment News **3.15** Friends (r) **4.05** Get Your Tatts Out: Kavos Ink (r) (SL) **4.55** Great Artists (r) (SL) **5.20** House Doctor (r) (SL) **5.45** Entertainment News **5.50** Milkshake!

Saturday 9 | Primetime digital guide

FV Freeview **FS** Freesat



David Niven
A compilation of Michael Parkinson's interviews with the actor
BBC4, 11.30pm

TalkTV
FV 237, FS 217, SKY 522, VIRGIN 606

6.00am Cristo Reports
7.00 David Bull The presenter brings you the biggest stories of the day
10.00 Peter Cardwell The Westminster insider scours the latest news from Parliament, featuring exclusive interviews
1.00pm Alex Phillips Discussion with the presenter
4.00 Trisha Goddard The broadcaster looks through the week's leading stories and gives her opinion on the biggest social dilemmas
7.00 Saturday Night Talkaway with Andre Walker The host offers his unique take on the week's top stories
9.00 That Was The Woke That Was Andre Walker quizzes the panel on the latest stories of the week
10.00-1.00am The James Whale Show The presenter reacts to the big stories of the day

BBC3
FV 23, FS 179, SKY 115, VIRGIN 107

7.00pm EastEnders
7.30 EastEnders
8.00 Squad Goals: Dorking 'Til I Die Dorking take on local rivals Sutton in a crucial game for the league (3/6)
8.30 Squad Goals: Dorking 'Til I Die Dorking Ladies are on a losing streak and team morale is low (4/6)
9.00 Two Pints of Lager and a Packet of Crisps David finally has his wicked way with Louise (8/11)
9.30 Two Pints of Lager and a Packet of Crisps Gaz gives Munch dating advice (9/11)
10.00 Two Pints of Lager and a Packet of Crisps Gaz has a health scare (10/11)
10.30 Two Pints of Lager and a Packet of Crisps Louise gets revenge on David (1/8)
11.00 Starstruck (3/6)
11.20 Starstruck (4/6)
11.45-12.45am Boot Dreams: Now or Never (3/6)

BBC4
FV 9/24, FS 173, SKY 116, VIRGIN 108

7.00pm Lost Land of the Volcano Gordon Buchanan enlists a local tribe to help him film unusual courtship displays by birds of paradise (2/3)
8.00 Ray Mears' Northern Wilderness The survival expert retraces the journey of explorer Samuel Hearne, who set the example for successful travel into the Canadian wilderness (3/6)
9.00 DNA After Julita's kidnapping, Rolf travels to France to bring Hania back to Denmark. In Danish (5/6)
9.40 DNA Mario pays a high price when things go sideways on his assignment. In Danish. Last in the series
10.30 Parkinson With Victoria Beckham, David Bowie and Clive James (10/10)
11.30-12.10am Parkinson: The David Niven Interviews Interviews with the actor from the early 1970s

More 4
FV 18, FS 124, SKY 136, VIRGIN 147

6.55pm Remarkable Places to Eat Fred Sirieix explores Burgundy with chef Michael Caines, visiting a restaurant deep in the Ouche Valley
7.55 Bettany Hughes' Treasures of the World Bettany uncovers a society which grew rich by selling copper, and visits the crowning glory of Bronze Age Oman: mysterious 5000-year-old beehive-shaped tombs (7/8)
9.00 24 Hours in A&E The team treats two trauma patients arriving by helicopter on the hospital's new helipad (6/8)
10.00 24 Hours in A&E A 66-year-old man has collapsed at home and an eight-year-old is suffering from severe hay fever (7/8)
11.05-12.10am 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown Richard Ayoade and Sara Pascoe take on Jon Richardson and Chris McCausland (4/6)

Sky Atlantic
SKY 108

6.50pm Ray Donovan Mickey spends time with his sons Bunchy and Terry, Ray sends Avi to Boston to gather evidence against his father and Ezra holds a fundraiser (3/12) (R)
7.55 Game of Thrones Robb and his bannermen gather to attend the wedding of Lord Edmure Tully and Roslin Frey, daughter of Lord Walder (9/10) (R)
9.00 Game of Thrones Joffrey stands up to his grandfather, Daenerys discovers if she is seen as a conqueror or liberator and mercy comes from a surprising source in Dragonstone (10/10) (R)
10.10 Game of Thrones Jon Snow finds himself on trial at Castle Black (1/10) (R)
11.20-12.30am Game of Thrones The day of King Joffrey's wedding to Margaery Tyrell arrives (2/10) (R)

Sky Documentaries
SKY 121, VIRGIN 188

5.00pm FILM JFK Revisited: Through the Looking Glass (15, 2021) Examining the assassination of US president John F Kennedy, using recently declassified files to shine a light on what really happened
7.15 I Am Johnny Cash A celebration of the country singer-songwriter built around 12 of his classic tracks spanning four decades (R)
9.00 Telemarketers Documentary chronicling the 20-year journey of two unlikely employees who stumbled upon the murky truth behind a seedy New Jersey call centre (1/3) (R)
10.10-12.20am Music Box The story of Woodstock 1999, a music festival promoted to echo unity but instead devolved into riots, lootings and sexual assaults. (1/6) (R)

ITV2
FV 6, FS 113, SKY 118, VIRGIN 115

6.35pm FILM Marley & Me (PG, 2008) Comedy drama starring Owen Wilson and Jennifer Aniston
9.00 FILM Identity Thief (15, 2013) An executive goes in search of the con-woman living off his credit cards, planning to bring her to justice. Comedy with Jason Bateman and Melissa McCarthy
11.15 Family Guy Stewie tries to save a recalled teddy bear
11.45-12.10am Family Guy Quagmire accidentally gets married to a prostitute

ITV3
FV 10, FS 115, SKY 119, VIRGIN 117

7.00pm Midsomer Murders When the leader of an archaeological dig is found murdered, DCI Barnaby and DS Nelson embark on a complex investigation
9.00 Midsomer Murders When the owner of an equestrian centre is trampled by his horse, DCI Barnaby and DS Nelson must unravel a feud from the past, where nothing is as it seems
11.05-1.05am Ridley An investigation is linked to the arson attack that killed Alex's family (4/4)

ITV4
FV 26, FS 117, SKY 120, VIRGIN 118

6.00pm Goodwood Revival Highlights Classic cars take to Goodwood Motor Circuit
8.00 Cycling: Tour of Britain Highlights All the action from stage seven, a 170.9km route
9.00 Live English Football League Highlights The latest fixtures
10.00-12.20am FILM Get Carter (18, 1971) A racketeer returns to his native Newcastle to bury his brother and investigate the circumstances surrounding his death. Thriller with Michael Caine

E4
FV 13, FS 122, SKY 135, VIRGIN 106

6.50pm FILM The Italian Job (12, 2003) A crook double-crosses his partners, who devise a daring plan to exact revenge. Crime thriller remake starring Mark Wahlberg
9.00 Celebrity Gogglebox World Cup Final '66 and *Naked Attraction* are appraised (2/7)
10.00 Gogglebox Opinions on *Casualty*, *Queer Eye* and *Alexander Armstrong in Sri Lanka*
11.05-12.05am Gogglebox *Sitting on a Fortune*, *Casualty* and *Britain's Got Talent* are appraised

Dave
FV 19, FS 157, SKY 111, VIRGIN 127

7.00pm The Americas with Simon Reeve Simon travels the length of California, scaling one of the world's tallest trees and finding out about the dangers of wildfires
8.00 Not Going Out Triple bill
10.00 Mock the Week End of Year Special A look back at the year gone by as well as outtakes
10.40 Mock the Week With Maisie Adam and Angela Barnes
11.20 QI With Gyles Brandreth
12.00-1.00am Have I Got a Bit More Old News for You

Drama
FV 20, FS 158, SKY 143, VIRGIN 116

6.00pm The Brokenwood Mysteries A man dies shortly after an altercation with his neighbour
8.00 Father Brown A murder is committed at the army barracks
9.00 Case Histories Part one of two. Jackson is involved in a train accident while investigating an allegedly unfaithful wife
10.20 Case Histories Part two of two. Jackson is released from jail
11.40-1.10am Rebus Crime thriller starring Ken Stott. An intriguing clue is left at a murder scene

Yesterday
FV 27, FS 159, SKY 155, VIRGIN 129

7.00pm Great Continental Railway Journeys Michael Portillo travels from Lyon to Marseille (6/6)
8.00 Great Continental Railway Journeys Michael Portillo travels from Sofia to Istanbul (1/6)
9.00 Great Continental Railway Journeys Michael Portillo ventures from Vienna to Trieste (2/6)
10.00 One Foot in the Grave
10.40 One Foot in the Grave
11.20 One Foot in the Grave
12.00-1.00am Bangers & Cash A mini pickup (9/10)

PBS America
FV 84, FS 155, SKY 174, VIRGIN 187

6.05pm Hitler's Circle of Evil (5/10)
7.15 No Roses on a Sailor's Grave
8.30 The Harlem Hellfighters' Great War The all-black 15th regiment of New York's National Guard, sent to the First World War
9.35 Heroes on Deck: World War Two on Lake Michigan The story of how the US Navy trained more than 15,000 carrier pilots on passenger steamers
10.50 No Roses on a Sailor's Grave
12.00-1.15am The Harlem Hellfighters' Great War

Sky Arts
FV 11, FS 147, SKY 130, VIRGIN 140

7.00pm Decoding Turner An analysis of the life and work of JMW Turner as two enthusiasts are joined by historians and academics to reveal the hidden codes they believe are woven into his painting
9.00 Alice Cooper: Live at Montreux A 2005 concert by the rock singer, featuring performances of *No More Mr Nice Guy*, *School's Out* and *Poison*
11.00-1.00am Hired Gun Documentary about session and touring musicians

Sky History
SKY 123, VIRGIN 131

7.00pm Ancient Aliens Investigations into the power of the number three in history (14/15)
8.00 Ancient Aliens Experts investigate the similarities in burial tombs from distant cultures (1/15)
9.00 Hunt for the Skinwalker Documentary about what may be the most intensive scientific study of a UFO and paranormal hotspot in human history
11.45-12.15am National Park Mysteries Curious events in Mount Shasta National Park (6/8)

Sky Max
SKY 113, VIRGIN 111

7.00pm Hawaii Five-O Catherine Rollins asks McGarrett and Jerry to help her find a uranium deposit
8.00 A Discovery of Witches Diana and Matthew are shocked by the reappearance of Jack Blackfriars, last seen in the 16th-century (2/7)
9.00 A League of Their Own: US Road Trip 2.0 Highlights from the American adventure, including a monster truck competition (7/7)
10.00 Never Mind the Buzzcocks
10.45 Warrior (2/10)
11.55-1.00am An Idiot Abroad

Nat Geographic
SKY 129, VIRGIN 183, BT 351

7.00pm 9/11: One Day In America A miraculous rescue story from the aftermath of the attack (6/6)
8.00 9/11: Control the Skies The stories of air traffic controllers during the 9/11 attacks
9.00 Retrograde Taking a look at the final months of America's 20-year war in Afghanistan
11.00 Bin Laden's Hard Drive Analysis of Osama bin Laden's declassified personal files
12.00-1.00am Banged Up Abroad A gangster who went undercover

Discovery
SKY 125, VIRGIN 177

7.00pm Deadliest Catch
8.00 Countdown to Collision The mega-port in Rotterdam
9.00 Hoffman Family Gold Tempers flare among the crew
10.00 Expedition Bigfoot
11.00 Expedition X
12.00-1.00am Mysteries of the Deep The mighty *SS Fitzgerald*

Sky Comedy
SKY 114, VIRGIN 112, BT 346

7.00pm The Office (US) Four episodes of the comedy series
9.00 Curb Your Enthusiasm (8/10)
9.35 Curb Your Enthusiasm (9/10)
10.15 Amy Schumer: Live at the Apollo Stand-up comedy focusing on food, sex, and getting in shape
11.25-12.05am Curb Your Enthusiasm (10/10)

Comedy Central
SKY 112, VIRGIN 132, BT 344

6.50pm Friends Four episodes
9.00 FILM Funny People (15, 2009) A terminally ill comedian offers an aspiring stand-up the benefit of his guidance. Starring Adam Sandler and Seth Rogen
11.50-1.35am FILM Jackass: The Movie (18, 2002) Comedy starring Johnny Knoxville

Gold
SKY 110, VIRGIN 124, BT 343

7.00pm Only Fools and Horses
7.40 Only Fools and Horses
8.20 Only Fools and Horses
9.00 Ricky & Ralf's Very Northern Road Trip A visit to Lancashire
10.00 Harry Enfield and Chums
10.40 Harry Enfield and Chums
11.20 The Real McCoy
12.00-12.35am The Real McCoy

W
FV 25, FS 156, SKY 132, VIRGIN 125

7.00pm My Family Triple bill
9.00 Gavin & Stacey
9.40 Gavin & Stacey
10.20 Gavin & Stacey
11.00 The Shift: Women on the Force A pack of hounds are loose on a major A road
12.00-1.00am Inside the Ambulance Documentary

Alibi
SKY 109, VIRGIN 114

6.00pm Inspector George Gently The adopted child of a middle-class couple is kidnapped (3/4)
8.00 Death in Paradise A skydiver appears to have been murdered in mid-air (3/9)
9.20 Father Brown (2/10)
10.20 The Mallorca Files (7/10)
11.20-12.20am Death in Paradise

Sky Main Event
SKY 401, VIRGIN 511, BT 440

10.30am Live Women's International One-Day Cricket: England v Sri Lanka
12.00 Live EFL: Bradford City v Grimsby Town (Kick-off **12.30**)
3.00pm Live Women's International One-Day Cricket: England v Sri Lanka
6.00 Live US Open Tennis Action from the mixed doubles final
8.30pm-12.00m't Live US Open Tennis The women's singles final
4.30-6.30am Live NRLW: Gold Coast Titans v Parramatta Eels

Sky Premier League
SKY 402, VIRGIN 512

7.00pm PL Years Classic games, infamous blunders and moments of skill from the 2011/12 season — set to a soundtrack from the time
9.00 Gary Neville's Soccerbox Gary Neville is joined by fellow Premier League legend Roy Keane, as the pair reflect on the matches that defined their glory years
10.00 Premier League Icons A profile of David Beckham
10.30-12.30am PL Retro Manchester United v Liverpool from the 2008/09 season



Heather Knight captains England in an ODI against Sri Lanka (Sky Main Event, 10.30am)

Sky Cricket
SKY 404, VIRGIN 514

10.30am Live Women's International One-Day Cricket: England v Sri Lanka
7.00pm Live One-Day International Cricket: South Africa v Australia
8.00 Secrets Of Success
8.30 Secrets Of Success
9.00 Women's International One-Day Cricket
10.00 One-Day International Cricket South Africa v Australia.
11.00-12.00m't Women's International One-Day Cricket

TNT Sports 1
SKY 410, VIRGIN 527, BT 430

6.00-9.00am Live AFL: St Kilda v GWS Giants (Bounce-up **6.20**)
12.30pm Live National Futsal Series The latest round of fixtures
2.30-5.15 Live Vanarama National League: Bromley v Maidenhead United (Kick-off **3.00**)
7.00-10.30 Live MLB: Chicago Cubs v Arizona Diamondbacks (Start-time **7.20**)
1.00am Live UFC Coverage of the preliminary bouts at UFC 293
3.00-7.00am Live UFC: Israel Adesanya v Sean Strickland

TNT Sports 2
SKY 411, VIRGIN 528, BT 431

6.30-7.45am Live World Rally Championship Special Stage 8
8.45 Live MotoGP
11.00 Live MotoE The MotoE San Marino Grand Prix first race
11.45 Live MotoGP
1.30pm Live MotoGP The Grand Prix of San Marino sprint race
3.00 Live MotoE The MotoE San Marino Grand Prix second race
3.45-4.45 Live Red Bull MotoGP Rookies Cup The latest round
8.15-11.45 Live Women's CPL
12.30-4.45am Live Hero CPL

Saturday 9

Film guide

Film4
FV 14 FS 300 SKY 313

11.00am Ferdinand (U, 2017) Animated comedy with the voice of John Cena
1.10pm Marmaduke (U, 2010) Comedy with Owen Wilson
2.55 Napoleon Dynamite (PG, 2004) Comedy starring Jon Heder and Efren Ramirez
4.55 Mother's Day (12, 2016) Comedy starring Julia Roberts
7.10 Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey (PG, 1991) The would-be heavy metal stars take on the Grim Reaper to save their souls and stop their robot doubles from changing history. Comedy with Keanu Reeves and Alex Winter
9.00 White House Down (12, 2013) A policeman on a tour of the White House has to save the president when terrorists seize control of the building. Action thriller with Channing Tatum, Jamie Foxx and Maggie Gyllenhaal
11.40 War for the Planet of the Apes (12, 2017) Adventure sequel with Andy Serkis
2.25-4.00am F (18, 2010) Horror with David Schofield

Talking Pictures TV
FV 82 FS 306 SKY 328 VIRGIN 445

6.00am Once A Thief (PG, 1935) Crime drama starring John Stuart and Derek Gorst
7.20 Something in the City (U, 1950) Comedy with Richard Hearne and Garry Marsh
8.55 Cinebox Memories
9.00 The Adventures of Robin Hood Adventure
9.30 Zorro's Black Whip
9.50 Cup Fever (U, 1965) Football drama starring Matt Busby and David Lodge
11.05 Dog Gone Kitten
11.15 Radar Men from the Moon Sci-fi adventure
11.30 The Buccaneers
12.00 Teenage Zombies (PG, 1959) Horror starring Don Sullivan and Katherine Victor
1.30pm The Outer Limits
2.30 Turn of Fate
3.00 Thunderbirds
4.05 A High Wind in Jamaica (PG, 1965) Maritime adventure starring Anthony Quinn and James Coburn
6.15 Rhubarb (U, 1968) Comedy short directed by and starring Eric Sykes
7.00 In Suspicious Circumstances
8.00 Maigret
9.00 The Four Just Men
9.30 The Caller (18, 1987) The inhabitant of an isolated cabin lets a mysterious stranger in to make a phone call, and an odd mind game begins. Thriller starring Malcolm McDowell and Madolyn Smith
11.30-1.15am Confessions of a Pop Performer (18, 1975) A sex-mad young man hatches a plan to become a pop star, in the hope of acquiring a following of female fans. Comedy with Robin Askwith



The comedy 80 for Brady (Sky Premiere, 12.20pm)

GREAT! Movies
FV 34 FS 302 SKY 321 VIRGIN 425

9.00am Stalked By My Mother (12, 2016) Thriller starring Jennifer Taylor
10.40 Deadly Vengeance (PG, 2019) Thriller starring Gina Holden and Jessica Belkin
12.15pm Fatal Getaway (PG, 2019) Thriller starring Anja Akstin and Laura Ault
1.55 Star Trek III: The Search for Spock (PG, 1984) Sci-fi sequel with William Shatner
4.00 Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan (12, 1982) Sci-fi adventure starring William Shatner and Leonard Nimoy
6.20 The Alamo (12, 2004) A vastly outnumbered group of Texan soldiers mounts a suicidal defence to protect a fortress against Mexican forces. Historical Western starring Dennis Quaid
9.00 Fifty Shades Darker (18, 2017) Anastasia Steele and billionaire playboy Christian Grey continue their controversial relationship. Erotic drama starring Dakota Johnson and Jamie Dornan
11.20-2.10am Kill Bill: Volume 2 (18, 2004) Thriller sequel starring Uma Thurman

Sky Cinema Premiere
SKY 301 VIRGIN 401

12.20pm 80 for Brady (12, 2023) Premiere. Comedy with Lily Tomlin and Jane Fonda
2.00 Dungeons & Dragons: Honour Among Thieves (12, 2023) Adventure with Chris Pine and Michelle Rodriguez
4.20 Agent Game (15, 2022) Thriller starring Dermot Mulroney and Jason Isaacs
6.05 80 for Brady (12, 2023) Four friends embark on a road trip to the forthcoming Super Bowl. Comedy starring Lily Tomlin, Jane Fonda, Rita Moreno and Sally Field
8.00 Dungeons & Dragons: Honour Among Thieves (12, 2023) A thief and a band of unlikely adventurers embark on an epic quest to retrieve a lost relic, but things go awry. Adventure starring Chris Pine
10.20-12.25am Scream VI (18, 2023) Horror sequel starring Courteney Cox, Melissa Barrera and Jenna Ortega

Radio guide

Today's pick

Last Night of the Proms
Radio 3, 6.30pm
The cellist Sheku Kanneh-Mason, *right*, and the soprano Lise Davidsen join the conductor Marin Alsop and the BBC Symphony Orchestra and Chorus and the BBC Singers for this final hurrah. After a proper Royal Albert Hall bill that includes the premiere of the young composer James B Wilson's piece *1922*, it concludes with the flag-rousing favourites by Arne (*Rule, Britannia!*), Elgar (*Land of Hope and Glory*) and Parry (*Jerusalem*). The presenters Georgia Mann and Petroc Trelawny are joined by the artist Grayson Perry for his unique take on this most British of occasions.
Ben Dowell



Sunday 10 | Viewing guide

Critic's choice
The Woman in the Wall
BBC1, 9pm



This haunting drama inspired by the legacy of Ireland's Magdalene laundries scandal has proved divisive. Not all readers were in agreement with our TV critic Carol Midgley's five-star review of the opening episode, with words such as "dreary", "depressing" and "disjointed" cropping up in comments online. A respectable 2.9 million watched the opening episode and, with the series not released as a box set, anyone gripped by Ruth Wilson's mesmerising performance as the tormented Lorna Brady, a survivor of the laundries, can't binge it — which is probably just as well, as it is often a harrowing watch. The true-life scandal of the young women incarcerated in institutions run by Catholic nuns because of "promiscuity" or having children outside marriage is dramatic enough, and many were turned off by the gothic element in Joe Murtagh's tale, but it is key to the storytelling. Lorna is an unreliable protagonist — an antiheroine who has committed terrible acts during extreme bouts of sleepwalking. And this was accentuated by the reveal at the end of the third episode last week (spoilers ahead) — there was no "woman in the wall". So where is Aoife Cassidy, the former nun who took Lorna's baby from her at the laundry, and who — we were led to believe — Lorna had killed (or at least played some part in her death)? Was Lorna's confession to the policeman Colman Akande (Daryl McCormack, *right with Wilson*) merely the demented ramblings of a sleep-deprived, traumatised woman? While Lorna seeks answers about her baby, the investigation into Father Percy's murder continues. Joe Clay

Jamie Cooks the Mediterranean
Channel 4, 8pm

Oh to be a TV chef! Jamie Oliver fancies a jolly in the Med and Channel 4 duly obliges, sending him off to "research the fascinating dishes that people are making" and "bring a bit of holiday back home". In this first episode, Oliver bish, bash, boshes his way around Greece, starting in Thessaloniki, where he enjoys a unique experience at a fish restaurant. He then heads to Skopelos to meet a chef with an interest in nomadic culture. He also does a spot of cooking inspired by the modern meze plates of Thessaloniki and island cuisine. **JC**

Mortimer & Whitehouse: Gone Fishing
BBC2, 9pm

As the series continues, Bob Mortimer and Paul Whitehouse are in Dumfries and Galloway, casting their lines on a "secret lake" in the hope of landing a whopper of a pike. It remains elusive, but the pair revel in their surroundings. "I'm very much at peace here," Mortimer says. Talk turns to death, albeit shot through with the duo's sense of the absurd. They stay at Spedlins Castle, supposedly haunted by the ghost of a local miller — the tale of Dunty's demise is truly gruesome, but the duo find humour in it. **JC**

The Day the Queen Died: Minute by Minute
Channel 5, 9pm

This feature-length documentary recounts the sad yet momentous events of last September 8. Journalists, politicians, historians and royal insiders are gathered to talk through the timeline of events before Queen Elizabeth II's death at 3.10pm and the official announcement at 6.30pm. The documentary also examines "London Bridge", the secret plan drawn up for Her Majesty's death with her approval and input and rehearsed for decades by officials and broadcasters. **JC**

The Shock of the New
BBC4, 10pm/11pm

A repeat of the Australian art critic Robert Hughes's 1982 eight-part series. Hughes travelled a quarter of a million miles to introduce viewers to architectural sites and studios, demystifying the artworks by connecting them to broader cultural and political trends. The first of tonight's double bill traces how developments in technology inspired art between 1880 and the end of the First World War, leading to movements such as cubism and futurism; the second episode examines the relationship between modern art and authority. **JC**

Films of the day

The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert (15, 1994)
BBC1, 10.30pm

Stephan Elliott's film is an LGBT milestone, a highlight of Australian cinema's renaissance and the finest lip-syncing this side of Milli Vanilli. It follows a dance troupe, *below*, consisting of a transgender woman (Terence Stamp) and two drag queens (a post-*Neighbours* Guy Pearce and a pre-*Matrix* Hugo Weaving) on a trip from Sydney to Alice Springs. Cooped up on their bus, Priscilla, our heroines contend with bigotry, befuddlement and infighting. Will they kill each other before the homophobes do? The film is full of striking scenes, from Stamp miming to CeCe Peniston's *Finally* for bored rednecks to Pearce doing Verdi on top of the moving bus, his silver plumage billowing against the outback. (99min) **Ed Potton**



The Evil Dead (18, 1982)
BBC2, midnight

The idea of a rural cabin filled with five students and an ancient zombie spirit might seem very quaint indeed, yet Sam Raimi's breakout feature remains profoundly unsettling because of the gonzo vigour with which he attacks his subject. Here the students, led by Bruce Campbell's Ash, accidentally release a Sumerian death devil into the woods of Tennessee. Much zombie-faced possession follows, as does a furious amount of blood-letting. The tone is dark, almost avant garde. Dialogue is replaced with a screaming soundtrack and a swirling, jittery camera. It doesn't get any more disturbing than Ash suffering an attempted sexual assault by his headless zombie girlfriend as the gore flows freely from her open neck wound and into his face. (85min) **Kevin Maher**

Catch up

David Hockney: A Celebration
Sky/Now

"Now in his mid-eighties and showing no signs of slowing down," Melvyn Bragg says at the start of this touching film about David Hockney, and the great arts presenter could be talking about himself. The two have communicated a lot over the past decades and there is an ease to their exchanges that allows gentle truths to emerge. Filmed over 12 months, with Hockney sporting bright-yellow round spectacles and a badge that says "End bossiness soon", this is a charming portrait of an artist whose accessibility and apparent simplicity of style belies a rich complexity. Also available is *50 Years on Film: David Hockney*, which is essentially a collage from the artist's many TV interviews. It begins with an *Omnibus* from 1975, before moving on to lots more meetings with Bragg. **Ben Dowell**



Regional programmes

• **BBC1 Wales As BBC1 except: 3.05pm** Weatherman Walking (r) **3.35** Pizza Boys: World Cup Adventure (r) **4.05** Escape to the Country (r) **4.45** Garden Rescue (r) **5.15-6.35pm FILM Wallace & Gromit in The Curse of the Were-Rabbit (2005)**
• **BBC2 Wales As BBC2 except: 6.00pm** A Special School (r) **6.30-7.00pm** Green Space, Dark Skies: Wales (r)
• **BBC1 N Ireland As BBC1 except: 2.15pm** Sunday Politics Northern Ireland **2.45** Songs of Praise **3.20** Points of View **3.35-4.15** Escape to the Country. Ginny Buckley helps a couple find a new home in Dorset (r) **10.30** Match of the Day from Northern Ireland. Kazakhstan v Northern Ireland **11.10 FILM The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert (1994) 12.50-6.00am** BBC News
• **BBC2 N Ireland As BBC2 except: 11.00pm** Mock the Week (r) **11.30pm-12.00midnight** Sunday Politics Northern Ireland. Mark Carruthers looks at the political developments of the week (r)
• **BBC1 Scotland As BBC1 except: 3.05pm** The Sunday Show. Martin Geissler presents the main issues from the world of politics an beyond **3.35-4.15pm** Escape to the Country. From Dorset (r)
• **STV As ITV1 except: 7.05-7.15pm** STV News **3.50-5.05am** Night Vision
• **BBC Scotland 10.00-10.30am** The Sunday Show **7.00pm** The Seven **7.15** Scotland's Greatest Escape (r) **8.10** Beechgrove Repotted (r) **8.30** Grand Tours of Scotland's Rivers (r) **9.00** Island Crossings. Bad weather puts Kerrera island's annual triathlon at risk of being cancelled. Last in the series **10.00** Still Game (r) **10.30** Two Doors Down (r) **11.00pm-Midnight** Seven Days
• **S4C 6.00am** Cyw **9.00** Garddio a Mwy (r) **9.30** Dau Gi Bach (r) **10.00** Ffit Cymru (r) **11.00** Grand Prix Speedway Caerdydd (r) **12.00** Dan Do (r) **12.30pm** Lle Bach Mawr (r) **1.30** Y 'Sgubor Flodau (r) **2.30** Y Gem Gyda... Gwenan Harries (r) **3.00** Cerys Matthews a'r Goeden Faled (r) **3.30** Arfordir Cymru: Llyn (r) **4.00** Sgwrs Dan y Lloer (r) **4.25** Ffermio (r) **4.55** Gwyl y Dyn Gwyrdd 2023. Highlights from the Green Man Festival in the Brecon Beacons (r) **5.50** Pobol y Cwm Omnibws (r) **7.00** News **7.15** Live Cwpan Rygbi'r Byd: Wales v Fiji. All the action from the opening Pool C match for both teams, held at Stade de Bordeaux in France. Kick-off 8.00 **10.30** Seiclo: Vuelta a España. Action from stage 15, featuring a 158.3km route from Pamplona to Lekunberri **11.00-12.05** Rygbi Cymru: Y Gêm yn y Gwaed (r)

(r) **repeat** (SL) **In-vision signing**

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Sunday 10

BBC1

6.00am Breakfast **9.00** Sunday with Laura Kuenssberg **10.00** Live Great North Run 2023. Coverage of the world's biggest half-marathon, which sees approximately 60,000 runners of all abilities negotiate the course from Newcastle upon Tyne to South Shields **2.00pm** BBC News; Weather **2.15** Songs of Praise **2.50** Points of View **3.05** Escape to the Country (r) **3.45** Garden Rescue (r) **4.15** FILM **Wallace & Gromit in The Curse of the Were-Rabbit (U, 2005)** The inventor and his canine sidekick go on the hunt for a destructive giant rabbit. Animated adventure featuring the voices of Peter Sallis and Ralph Fiennes **5.35** The Mating Game. The lengths that animals go to in search of a mate (r) **6.35** BBC News **6.50** BBC Regional News; Weather


Curse of the Were Rabbit (4.15pm)

7.00 **Countryfile** Sammi Kinghorn returns to Cumbria to find out how young shepherdess Katie is doing now that she's finished school for the year, and examines her work on increasing biodiversity

8.00 **Antiques Roadshow** Fiona Bruce presents the show from Crystal Palace Park in south-east London, joined by cartoonist Ralph Steadman. Items brought in to be valued include three bronze Chinese censers and a rare sundial

9.00 **The Woman in the Wall** Aoife's body is missing and Lorna is devastated by the news of the death of her child. She takes matters into her own hands and heads back to the convent. **See Viewing guide** (4/6)

10.00 **BBC News**; Weather

10.25 **BBC Regional News**

10.30 FILM **The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert (15, 1994)** Three drag queens set off across the Australian Outback to play a season of shows in an Alice Springs hotel — but it is not long before they break down and end up staying in a rough town where their outrageous mannerisms, glittery frocks and teetering high heels are definitely out of place. Comedy starring Terence Stamp, Guy Pearce and Hugo Weaving. **See Film Choice**

12.10am Weather for the Week Ahead **12.15** BBC News. The latest updates

BBC2

6.05am Glorious Gardens from Above (r) **6.50** Dame Judi Dench Countryfile Special (r) **7.45** Gardeners' World (r) **8.45** Beechgrove Garden (r) **9.15** Life in a Cottage Garden with Carol Klein (r) **9.45** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites **11.15** Mary Berry's Quick Cooking (r) **11.45** Rick Stein's Seafood Odyssey (r) **12.15pm** FILM **The Big Country (PG, 1958)** Western starring Gregory Peck **3.00** This Farming Life (r) **4.00** Rowing World Championships Highlights. A review of the event, held this year in Belgrade, Serbia **5.00** Great North Run Highlights. Action from the half-marathon, which took place on a course from Newcastle upon Tyne to South Shields **6.00** Helping Our Teens. Part one of two. A behaviour expert helps secondary school students (r)


Fishing buddies Bob and Paul (9pm)

7.00 **ODI Cricket Highlights** England v New Zealand. Action from the second game in the four-match series, held at Ageas Bowl, Southampton, as England continued their first home ODI series of the summer

8.00 **Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby** At Phinda Private Game Reserve in South Africa, Monica Galetti and Rob Rinder join forces with the hotel staff to learn how to deliver a luxury safari experience

9.00 **Mortimer & Whitehouse: Gone Fishing** Paul and Bob head to a lake in Dumfries and Galloway. **See Viewing guide** (2/6)

9.30 **The Fast Show** Ted and Ralph have a discussion about green overalls (4/6) (r)

10.00 **Louis Theroux: Mothers on the Edge** The film-maker returns to the UK to spend time in two specialist psychiatric units that treat mothers experiencing serious mental illness while allowing them to live alongside their babies (r)

11.00 **The Misadventures of Romesh Ranganathan** The comedian explores the Sahara desert, where temperatures rise to 50 degrees celsius, and is guided by a local of Berber descent who was born and grew up in the region (r)

12.00 FILM **The Evil Dead (18, 1982)** Horror with Bruce Campbell and Ellen Sandweiss. **See Film Choice 1.25am** Sign Zone: Claimed and Shamed (r) (SL) **2.10** Henpocalypse! (r) (SL) **2.40-3.40** The Following Events Are Based on a Pack of Lies (r) (SL)

ITV1

6.00am James Martin's American Adventure (r) **6.25** James Martin's Saturday Morning (r) **8.20** ITV News **8.25** Katie Piper's Breakfast Show. With Angela Barnes and JB Gill. Last in the series **9.25** Love Your Weekend with Alan Titchmarsh (r) **11.25** Live Rugby World Cup 2023: Japan v Chile (Kick-off **12.00**). All the action from the opening match in Pool D for both teams, held at Stadium de Toulouse in France **2.20pm** ITV News; Weather **2.35** Catchphrase. Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show (r) **3.20** You've Been Framed! Comical clips, including crashing drones and flying dirtbikes (r) **3.55** Live Rugby World Cup 2023: South Africa v Scotland (Kick-off **4.45**). Mark Pougatch presents action from both teams' opening Pool B fixture at Stade de Marseille in France


Cult leader David Koresh (10.45pm)

7.00 **ITV News**

7.05 **Regional News**; Weather

7.15 **Live Rugby World Cup 2023: Wales v Fiji** (Kick-off **8.00**). All the action from the opening Pool C match for both teams, held at Stade de Bordeaux in France. Wales enjoyed a fine tournament four years ago, finishing in fourth place, but they go into this tournament with a point to prove following a disappointing Six Nations campaign. In contrast, their opponents struggled for form in the 2019 World Cup, but will go into this match with confidence following a victory over England at Twickenham in their final warm-up match. Mark Pougatch presents, with analysis from Sam Warburton, Gareth Thomas and Jamie Roberts, and commentary by Miles Harrison, Shane Williams and Ben Kay

10.25 **ITV News**

10.45 **Waco Untold: The British Stories** Part two of two. A look at how the siege ended as a deadly fire raged at the group's compound, as well as the profound influence that Waco still has today

11.45 **The National Television Awards 2023** Joel Dommett hosts the ceremony (r)

2.10am English Football League Highlights. The latest fixtures, including Lincoln City v Oxford United (r) **3.00** Motorsport UK. Richard John Neil presents action from Oulton Park (r) **3.50** Unwind with ITV **5.05** James Martin's Spanish Adventure (r) (SL)

Channel 4

6.15am Cheers (r) **6.40** Cheers (r) **7.05** Cheers (r) **7.35** The King of Queens (r) **8.00** The King of Queens (r) **8.30** Bake Off: The Professionals: The Final (r) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. With guests Bonnie Langford, Laura Checkley, Jake Quickenden and Jason Byrne **12.30pm** Live Super League Rugby: Salford Red Devils v Warrington Wolves. (Kick-off **12.45**). Helen Skelton presents all the action from the match at AJ Bell Stadium **3.00** The Secret Life of the Zoo (r) **3.30** The Dog House. A mother and son must choose between a stray Westie and a young Staffie cross (r) **4.20** FILM **Wonder (PG, 2017)** A boy with facial disfigurements struggles to fit in at a mainstream school. Drama starring Jacob Tremblay, Julia Roberts and Owen Wilson **6.30** Channel 4 News


Jamie Oliver is in Greece (8pm)

7.00 **The Secret World of Chocolate** Dawn French narrates a look at rivalries between chocolate manufacturers, revealing the lengths companies went to in a bid to make their product the nation's favourite (1/3) (r)

8.00 **Jamie Cooks the Mediterranean** New series. Jamie Oliver travels the Mediterranean in search of recipes. In the first episode, he visits Greece and cooks a smoky aubergine flatbread. **See Viewing guide** (1/4)

9.00 **Alone: The Final** The ultimate test of survival reaches its climax for the final competitors — but one suffers an injury while fishing, leaving them physically vulnerable (6/6)

10.00 **Gogglebox** The armchair critics share their opinions on what they have been watching during the week, with cameras capturing their reactions (r)

11.00 **Gogglebox** Reviews of *The Traitors*, *I'm a Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here!*, *Michael McIntyre's The Wheel*, *Planet Sex with Cara Delevingne*, *Mammals*, and *You Won't Believe This* (r)

12.00 FILM **Parasite (15, 2019)** South Korean satirical thriller starring Kang-ho Song **2.20am** Ramsay's 24 Hours to Hell and Back. A struggling Mexican restaurant in Los Angeles (r) (SL) **3.05** Come Dine with Me (r) **5.10** Location, Location, Location (r) (SL)

Channel 5

6.00am Milkshake! **9.50** The Smurfs (r) **10.05** SpongeBob SquarePants (r) **10.20** Entertainment News on 5 **10.30** NFL End Zone. New series. Action from the opening matches of the season in the NFL **11.00** Friends (r) **11.30** Friends (r) **11.55** Friends (r) **12.25pm** Friends (r) **12.55** Norfolk and Suffolk: Country & Coast (r) **1.55** FILM **My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2 (12, 2016)** A woman discovers her parents were never legally married, and sets about organising an elaborate wedding. Romantic comedy sequel starring Nia Vardalos **3.45** FILM **Miss Congeniality (12, 2000)** A terrorist threatens to bomb a Miss United States beauty pageant, resulting in an FBI agent going undercover as a contestant. Comedy starring Sandra Bullock **6.00** 5 News Weekend



New series Hotel Benidorm (8pm)

6.05 **Britain's Favourite Ads of the 70s & 80s** A celebration of the most memorable, impressive, funny and sometimes shocking British television adverts, with commentary on how they were made and their social context

8.00 **Hotel Benidorm: Fun Loving Brits in the Sun** New series. Return of the documentary following life in the Spanish resort, with a women's rugby team from Manchester checking in to the Hotel Benidorm Plaza (1/6)

9.00 **The Day The Queen Died: Minute by Minute** Recounting the events of September 8, 2022, from early signs of concern to the interruption of Parliament and the royal family converging on Scotland. The documentary also examines the secret plan drawn up for her death, with her approval and input, and rehearsed for decades. **See Viewing guide**

10.30 **When Holidays Go Horribly Wrong** Disastrous caravan vacations, including a grizzly bear incursion in Canada, a family who waded through a knee-deep torrent of rain to get to their static in Cornwall, and a caravan that detached itself from a car and went hurtling down a motorway (3/5)

11.55 **Coastguard: Search & Rescue SOS** Documentary (1/6) (r)

12.55am Entertainment News on 5 **1.00** PlayOJO Live Casino Show **3.00** Puppy School for Guide Dogs (r) **3.50** Get Your Tatts Out: Kavos Ink (r) (SL) **4.40** Great Artists (r) (SL) **5.05** House Doctor (r) (SL) **5.30** Entertainment News on 5 **5.35** Milkshake!

Sunday 10 | Primetime digital guide



Bridesmaids
In the 2011 comedy, a chaotic woman takes charge of a bridal party
ITV2, 9pm

FV Freeview **FS** Freesat



England's Dawid Malan is set to face New Zealand in the second ODI (Sky Main Event, 10.30am)

Sunday 10

Film guide

Film4
FV 14 FS 300 SKY 313

11.00am Carry On Cabby (PG, 1963) Comedy starring Sid James and Hattie Jacques
12.50pm Shrek Forever After (U, 2010) Animated comedy with the voice of Mike Myers
2.40 A Dog's Purpose (PG, 2017) Comedy drama starring Josh Gad and Dennis Quaid
4.40 Tooth Fairy (PG, 2010) Family comedy with Dwayne Johnson and Ashley Judd
6.45 Finding Your Feet (12, 2017) A wealthy woman seeks solace with her estranged sister's dance class after learning her husband is having an affair. Comedy starring Imelda Staunton
9.00 The Iceman (15, 2012) A contract killer leads a seemingly normal life, with his family unaware of his deadly profession. Fact-based crime drama starring Michael Shannon and Winona Ryder
11.10 Them That Follow (15, 2019) Thriller with Olivia Colman and Kaitlyn Dever
1.05-3.15am Dancehall Queen (15, 1997) Thriller with Audrey Reid and Paul Campbell

Talking Pictures TV
FV 82 FS 306 SKY 328 VIRGIN 445

6.00am The Mysterious Mr Nicholson (PG, 1947) Crime thriller starring Anthony Hulme and Lesley Osmond
7.30 Peg of Old Drury (U, 1935) Biopic of an 18th-century actress starring Anna Neagle and Cedric Hardwicke
9.00 Nine, Dalmuir West
9.15 The Turners of Prospect Road (PG, 1947) Comedy drama starring Wilfrid Lawson and Helena Pickard
10.30 Last of the Redmen (U, 1947) Adventure starring Jon Hall and Michael O'Shea
12.05pm Sleeping Car to Trieste (PG, 1948) Spy thriller starring Jean Kent, Albert Lieven and Paul Dupuis
1.55 Swinging UK
2.30 The Larkins
3.10 The Men of Sherwood Forest (U, 1954) Robin Hood adventure starring Don Taylor and David King-Wood
4.45 Look at Life
5.00 The Footage Detectives
6.00 Tell Me Another
6.30 Operation Amsterdam (PG, 1958) A British Army officer sets out to thwart the Nazis by stealing a secret cache of diamonds from a bank in Amsterdam. Second World War adventure with Peter Finch and Tony Britton
8.35 The Coach Travellers in 1965 Short promotional film
9.00 Van der Valk
10.00-12.15am Kings Go Forth (PG, 1958) Two American GIs find their friendship strained to breaking point as they pursue the same woman. Drama with Frank Sinatra and Tony Curtis and Natalie Wood


Michael Shannon stars in The Iceman (Film4, 9pm)

GREAT! Movies
FV 34 FS 302 SKY 321 VIRGIN 425

9.00am Death Al Dente: The Gourmet Detective (PG, 2015) Murder mystery starring Alissa Skovbye
10.45 Framed for Murder: A Fixer Upper Mystery (PG, 2017) Mystery starring Jewel Kilcher and Colin Ferguson
12.30pm An Emma Fielding Mystery: Site Unseen (PG, 2017) Whodunit starring Courtney Thorne-Smith
2.20 Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home (PG, 1986) Sci-fi adventure starring William Shatner and Leonard Nimoy
4.40 Star Trek V: The Final Frontier (PG, 1989) Sci-fi adventure starring William Shatner and Leonard Nimoy
6.50 After Earth (12, 2013) A father and son crash land on a long-abandoned Earth, which has become home to all manner of dangerous life-forms. Sci-fi adventure starring Will and Jaden Smith
9.00 Fifty Shades Freed (18, 2018) Tycoon Christian Grey and new wife Anastasia find their happiness endangered by her former boss. Romantic thriller starring Dakota Johnson and Jamie Dornan
11.10-1.25am Ned Kelly (15, 2003) Adventure with Heath Ledger and Orlando Bloom

Sky Cinema Premiere
SKY 301 VIRGIN 401

1.50pm Dungeons & Dragons: Honour Among Thieves (12, 2023) Action adventure starring Chris Pine
4.10 80 for Brady (12, 2023) Comedy starring Lily Tomlin a
6.00 Something in the Dirt (15, 2022) Two neighbours witness supernatural events in their apartment building and decide to film the phenomena. Comedy drama starring Aaron Moorhead
8.00 Dungeons & Dragons: Honour Among Thieves (12, 2023) A thief and a band of unlikely adventurers embark on an epic quest to retrieve a lost relic, but things go awry. Adventure starring Chris Pine
10.15-12.20am Scream VI (18, 2023) Horror sequel starring Courteney Cox

Radio guide

Today's pick

Private Passions
Radio 3, noon
In 2016 the artist Jeremy Deller, *right*, marked the centenary of the Battle of the Somme with a breathtaking piece of work, *We're Here Because We're Here*, in which 1,600 young men in First World War uniforms appeared unannounced across the UK. Each participant represented a soldier who died on July 1, 1916. In 2012 he created a lifesize inflatable version of Stonehenge. His musical choices today are suitably



wide-ranging and sometimes unexpected, with sounds from across the world alongside Beethoven, Monteverdi and Vaughan Williams. Ben Dowell

Monday 11 | Viewing guide

Critic's choice
My Mum, Your Dad
ITV1, 9pm



If a *Love Island* for middle-aged people sounds like your idea of TV hell, then this Australian format has a sweet and original twist: the single oldsters are being watched and advised by their grown-up children. Yes, as the parents spend two weeks sizing each other up in a luxury house in the countryside, *right*, their offspring are gathered nearby, watching their every move. The parents know nothing of this. They think that they are being observed and guided by relationship experts, which in a sense they are. There are many things to like about this format. The potential cruelty of the set-up is blown away by the tenderness of the execution, aided by romantic pop tunes that play (a little too intrusively at times) over the action. The hopefuls are single for all sorts of reasons — one woman was dumped by text by her partner just after her father had died; a man called Roger is a widower — and all the oldsters' progeny want them to find love. It's hosted by Davina McCall, the *Big Brother* veteran who knows her way round a reality format that comes with a few surprises (there are further twists later in the run) and has empathy, compassion and an understanding of middle-aged needs. The younger folk are great too. Naturally they worry about watching their parents find love ("I love her, but I know my mum's going to do something to cringe me out," says one), but most of the time they are sensitive and supportive, especially when one gets a bit too keen or when Roger shows how hard it is to let himself go. Ben Dowell

Pinochet: The Coup, the Torture and the West
PBS America, 8.30pm

Today marks the 50th anniversary of the military coup that took General Augusto Pinochet to power in Chile — a position he kept with the support of democracies including the UK. As the British academic Nicholas O'Shaughnessy says: "We remember Pinochet not just because of his cruelty and sadism, but also because of his personal construction of a new global economic order. You can't underestimate the world historical significance of what he actually did." **BD**

Laura Kuenssberg: State of Chaos
BBC2, 9pm

Since stepping down as the BBC's political editor, Laura Kuenssberg has enjoyed work in which she can perform bigger sit-down interviews and offer her sage-like reflections. Over three films this new series finds her examining the tumultuous developments of recent years and wondering whether our politics has been stretched to breaking point. Or as she puts it: "I want to take viewers behind the scenes to show them what really happened, and ask whether, after all the craziness, politics will ever be the same again." **BD**

The Inheritance
Channel 5, 9pm

The siblings Daniel (Robert James-Collier), Chloe (Jemima Rooper) and Sian (Gaynor Faye) are reeling from the cliffhanger of the opening episode last week, when the coroner stopped the funeral of their dad, Dennis. His death is now the subject of a police investigation (and an unofficial one by the siblings). Dennis's secret lady, Susan, continues to be great value, with Samantha Bond revelling in the glacial villainy of her character. The disclosure of more financial and romantic murkiness, and Sian developing a crush on the estate agent who valued their father's house, complicate matters further. **BD**

Edward Heath Remembered by Michael Cockerell
BBC4, 10pm

The BBC's poster boy for political profiles has a reputation for getting under the skin of those who have governed postwar Britain. Here he remembers one of the pricklier residents of No 10 — a man who wanted his private life kept that way. It's a brief introduction to a repeat showing of what Michael Cockerell clearly regards as one of the most challenging encounters of his career — *A Very Singular Man*, his 1998 documentary profile of Edward Heath (BBC4, 10.10pm). **BD**

Films of the day

What Ever Happened to Baby Jane? (12, 1962)
BBC2, 11.15pm

A memorably grotesque Bette Davis plays the titular demented former child star who torments her wheelchair-using sister, Blanche (Joan Crawford), in Robert Aldrich's high-camp psychological horror. "Baby" Jane Hudson is unable to forgive the fact that Blanche's career as a matinee queen eclipsed her own and exacts daily humiliations on her. The intensely bitter Hollywood rivalry between the stars was key to the film's success and revitalised their careers. Davis was nominated for the Oscar for best actress for her performance. Had she won, it would have set a record number of wins for one actress. According to Shaun Considine's book *Bette & Joan: The Divine Feud*, Crawford campaigned against Davis winning the award. (128min) **Joe Clay**



Naked (18, 1993)
Film4, 11.30pm

This is the greatest David Thewlis performance, in one of the greatest Mike Leigh films. Thewlis, *above*, plays the motormouth conspiracy theorist Johnny Fletcher, who over the course of this social-realist rollercoaster infuriates his ex-girlfriend, Louise (Lesley Sharp), baffles her flatmate, Sophie (Katrin Cartlidge), and wanders the mean streets of London expounding on his labyrinthine life theories to anyone unfortunate enough to cross his path. It's not so much a crafted narrative as a series of blistering monologues. A dishevelled, maniacal Thewlis spitting fire on a hateful god ("Mankind is just a component of the device by which the devil creates itself!"), the idiocy of boredom and the tyranny of evolution is ghastly and impossible to resist. (125min) **Kevin Maher**

Catch up

Hatton
Sky/Now



This riveting film — and it's no cliché to say — pulls no punches. Ricky Hatton, his family, his former trainer Billy Graham and others from his tight circle contribute to the story of his electrifying rise and hard public fall. "I was world champion four times over, but I consider myself a failure," says Hatton, who speaks with profound honesty about his career and his mental health struggles. The proud Mancunian exploded onto the boxing scene and quickly garnered a loyal fanbase who watched him win time and time again — he held multiple championships at light-welterweight and one at welterweight. Hatton's 2007 defeat to Floyd Mayweather Jr shattered his career and sense of self, taking a severe toll on his wellbeing. **Toby Earle**

Regional programmes

• **BBC1 Wales As BBC1 except: 8.00pm** Pizza Boys: World Cup Adventure **8.30-9.00** The Dark Side of Ballet Schools: Panorama (r) **10.40** Match of the Day Wales **11.10** Question of Sport (r) **11.40-12.25am** The Hit List (r)
• **BBC1 N Ireland As BBC1 except: 10.40pm** Jailed: Inside Maghaberry Prison. Stephen Nolan talks to a convicted murderer **11.10** The Hit List. A Strictly Come Dancing special (r) **11.55** Question of Sport. Highlights of the past 12 months (r) **12.25-6.00am** BBC News
• **BBC2 N Ireland As BBC2 except: 10.00-10.30pm** Peataí! Paul give Lily the feisty cockapoo her first grooming
• **BBC1 Scotland As BBC1 except: 11.25pm** Sportscene: SWPL Highlights (r) **12.10am** Question of Sport (r) **12.40** Weather for the Week Ahead **12.45-6.00am** BBC News
• **ITV1 Wales As ITV1 except: 10.45-11.40pm** Sharp End. Political discussion
• **STV As ITV1 except: 10.30pm** STV News **10.40** Scotland Tonight **11.05** Mel Giedroyc and Martin Clunes Explore Britain by the Book. Locations made famous by books and films (r) **12.00** My Mum, Your Dad (r) **12.55-2.10am** British Touring Car Championship Highlights. Action from Donington Park (r) **3.50-5.05am** Night Vision
• **UTV As ITV1 except: 10.45-11.40pm** View from Stormont
• **BBC Scotland 2.00pm** Sign Zone: Beechgrove Garden (r) **2.30** Sign Zone: Return to Uist (r) **3.00-4.00** Sign Zone: Island Crossings (r) **7.00** Sportscene: SWPL Highlights. The latest matches **7.45** Beechgrove Repotted (r) **8.00** This Farming Life. The MacDonalds move their pregnant cattle to the island of Vallay **9.00** The Nine **10.00** Being Mum with MND (r) **11.00** Gary: Tank Commander (r) **11.30pm-Midnight** Limmy's Show (r)
• **S4C 6.00am** Cyw **12.00** News **12.05pm** Adre (r) **12.30** Heno Aur (r) **1.00** Ceffylau Cymru (r) **1.30** Pen/Campwyr (r) **2.00** News **2.05** Prynhawn Da **3.00** News **3.05** Eryri: Pobol y Parc (r) **4.00** Awr Fawr: Anifeiliaid Bach y Byd (r) **4.10** Tomos a'i Ffrindiau (r) **4.20** Ein Byd Bach Ni (r) **4.30** Crawc a'i Ffrindiau (r) **4.45** Byd Tad-Cu (r) **5.00** Stwnsh: Dennis a Dannedd (r) **5.10** Seligo (r) **5.15** Bwystfil (r) **5.25** Dyffryn Mwmin **5.50** News Ni **6.00** Cymry ar Gynfas (r) **6.30** Garejis: Dan y Bonet (r) **7.00** News **7.20** Live Sgorio Rhyngwladol: Latvia v Wales. Coverage of the UEFA Euro 2024 Group D qualifier at Skonto Stadium in Riga. Kick-off 7.45 **10.00** Ralïo+ **10.35-11.40** Y Llinell Las (r)

(r) **repeat** (SL) **In-vision signing**

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Monday 11

BBC1

6.00am Breakfast **9.15** Morning Live **10.00** Critical Incident (r) **10.45** Expert Witness (r) **11.15** Homes Under the Hammer (r) **12.15pm** Bargain Hunt **1.00** BBC News at One; Weather **1.30** BBC Regional News; Weather **1.45** Doctors. Sid has a run in with a son determined to follow in his father's criminal footsteps **2.15** Money for Nothing. Restoring balloon-back chairs, a safe and an old card table **3.00** Escape to the Country. Houses in the North Yorkshire countryside **3.45** Garden Rescue. Lee and Chris come to the aid of a couple with differing ideas **4.30** The Finish Line. Quiz, hosted by Roman Kemp and Sarah Greene **5.15** Pointless. Alexander Armstrong is joined by Konnie Huq **6.00** BBC News at Six; Weather **6.30** BBC Regional News; Weather



Quiz show The Finish Line (4.30pm)

7.00 The One Show Alex Jones and Jermaine Jenas present topical stories and celebrity chat

7.30 EastEnders Kat is furious to be kept in the dark, Lily struggles with motherhood and Emma makes an unwelcome return

8.00 The Dark Side of Ballet Schools — Panorama In-depth current affairs report

8.30 Garden Rescue Charlie Dimmock and the team create a tranquil wildlife-friendly garden in Nottingham (6/10) (r)

9.00 Who Do You Think You Are? Singer Boy George traces the story of his maternal grandmother, who was found wandering the streets of Dublin as a small child and put in a children's home (4/8) (r)

10.00 BBC News at Ten

10.30 BBC Regional News

10.40 The Hit List Marvin and Rochelle Humes host a *Strictly Come Dancing* special (11/12) (r)

11.25 Question of Sport A look back at highlights of the past 12 months. Last in the series (r)

11.55 Weather for the Week Ahead A look ahead to the latest forecast

12.00 BBC News. The day's headlines

BBC2

6.30am Bargain Hunt (r) **7.15** Garden Rescue (r) **8.00** Sign Zone: This Farming Life (r) (SL) **9.00** Nicky Campbell **10.00** BBC News **12.15pm** Politics Live **1.00** Impossible (r) **1.45** Eggheads (r) **2.15** Murder, Mystery and My Family. The poisoning of a care home resident in the 1930s (r) **3.00** The Wonder of Animals. Examining what lies beneath a crocodile's hard exterior (r) **3.30** Great British Railway Journeys. Warwick to Radley (r) (SL) **4.00** Who Do You Think You Are?. Jonnie Peacock explores the life of his grandfather (r) **5.00** Flog It! From the Watts Gallery (r) **6.00** Richard Osman's House of Games. With Babatunde Aleshe and Richie Anderson (r) **6.30** Marcus Wareing's Tales from a Kitchen Garden. The chef goes foraging



University Challenge (8.30pm)

7.00 Chris and Meg's Wild Summer The presenters explore the Lake District (3/6) (r)

7.30 Mastermind Specialist subjects include *Gavin & Stacey*, Sergio Leone's Spaghetti Westerns and tennis star Roger Federer

8.00 Only Connect First-round losers the Roadies and the Cribbagers get another chance

8.30 University Challenge Amol Rajan asks the questions as Balliol College, Oxford faces Imperial College London

9.00 Laura Kuenssberg: State of Chaos New series. The journalist looks at whether UK politics has been stretched to breaking point following the EU referendum, and asks if will ever return to normal. **See Viewing Guide** (1/3)

10.00 The Royle Family The wedding is put at risk after Denise kicks up a stink (5/6) (r)

10.30 Newsnight The day's important national and international news stories, with Victoria Derbyshire

11.15 FILM **What Ever Happened to Baby Jane? (12, 1962)** An embittered former child star keeps her wheelchair-bound sister a prisoner in their home. Drama starring Bette Davis. **See Film Choice** (b/w)

1.25am Sign Zone: Dame Judi Dench Countryfile Special. Judi Dench joins Charlotte Smith in the grounds of Inveraray Castle (r) (SL) **2.20** Celebrity MasterChef. The celebrities cook a meal over open flame (r) (SL) **3.20-3.50** Mrs Brown's Boys (r) (SL)

ITV1

6.00am Good Morning Britain **9.00** Lorraine **10.00** This Morning **12.30pm** Loose Women. Celebrity interviews and studio discussion from a female perspective **1.30** ITV News; Weather **1.55** Regional News; Weather **2.00** James Martin's Spanish Adventure. The chef visits Vigo in north-west Spain, which is home to the biggest fish market in Europe **3.00** Tenable. Five people from Windsor play to take home a big cash prize by answering a series of Top 10 list questions in the quiz show hosted by Warwick Davis **4.00** Tipping Point. Ben Shephard hosts the arcade-themed quiz in which contestants drop tokens down a choice of four chutes **5.00** The Chase. Quiz show hosted by Bradley Walsh **6.00** Regional News; Weather **6.30** ITV News; Weather



Emmerdale's Lydia Dingle (7.30pm)

7.30 Emmerdale Lydia struggles in the aftermath of her ordeal, and a grieving Claudette admits that she needed Charles's support

8.00 Coronation Street A row with Stu lands Eliza in hospital. Meanwhile, Amy resists Dev's matchmaking attempt, Dee-Dee fails to twig Joel's real motive, and Roy tackles Lauren's accommodation problem

9.00 My Mum, Your Dad New series. Dating show hosted by Davina McCall, which follows eight single parents who have been nominated by their children to spend two weeks in a retreat for a second chance at love. **See Viewing Guide** (1/10)

10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather

10.30 Regional News

10.45 Mel Giedroyc and Martin Clunes Explore Britain by the Book The acting friends head to Dorset to explore the spectacular scenery and locations made famous by some of Britain's favourite books and films (r)

11.40 My Mum, Your Dad Davina McCall hosts (1/10) (r)

12.30am All Elite Wrestling: Dynamite. Hard-hitting action from the world of All Elite Wrestling (r) **2.10** Tipping Point. Quiz, hosted by Ben Shephard (r) **3.00** Tenable (r) (SL) **3.50** Unwind with ITV **5.05** James Martin's Spanish Adventure. Cooking series (r) (SL)

Channel 4

6.05am Countdown (r) **6.45** Cheers (r) **7.10** Cheers (r) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond (r) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond (r) **8.25** Frasier (r) **8.55** Frasier (r) **9.25** Frasier (r) **9.55** Château DIY (r) **10.55** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces (r) **11.55** Channel 4 News Summary **12.00** Steph's Packed Lunch **2.10pm** Countdown. Justin Moorhouse is in Dictionary Corner **3.00** A Place in the Sun. Craig helps to find a holiday home on Barbados (r) **4.00** A Place in the Sun. Lee Juggurnauth goes house hunting in the town of Pinar de Campoverde in Spain **5.00** Four in a Bed (r) **5.30** Come Dine with Me (r) **6.00** Hollyoaks. Rayne is determined to turn Faye against Lizzie and her family (r) **6.30** Hollyoaks. Felix is discharged from hospital (r)



9 Squadron's Richard (9pm)

7.00 Channel 4 News Including sport and weather

8.00 A Cotswold Farmshop Buyer Jane, who looks after the farm shop's selection of beer, is keen to find out why the locally produced malt makes some of the local brews so special. While, Alex checks in with the son of a cheese supplier (6/6)

9.00 Top Guns: Inside the RAF A young pilot encounters a Russian aircraft over Syria when his wingman suffers a cockpit emergency. In Estonia, another broken jet risks leaving NATO's frontline undefended against the Russians (4/6)

10.00 Bear Grylls Meets President Zelenskyy Documentary in which Bear Grylls ventures into Ukraine by invitation of President Zelenskyy where he meets civilians who are trying to survive the war to learn what life is really like for them (r)

11.05 24 Hours in A&E Doctors treat a 75-year-old, who has been rushed to A&E after a stroke. Meanwhile, an emergency nurse practitioner, who has been nursing for 40 years, talks about the miscarriage she suffered in her youth (4/9) (r)

12.05am The Queens that Changed the World **1.00** The Duchess and Her Magical Kingdom (r) **1.55** Couples Come Dine with Me (r) **2.45** Screw (r) **3.40** Grand Designs **4.30** Location, Location, Location **5.25** Beat the Chef **5.50** Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free

Channel 5

6.00am Milkshake! **9.15** Jeremy Vine. The broadcaster discusses the issues of the day **11.15** Storm Huntley. Debate on the day's talking points continues **12.40pm** Alexis Conran. The important stories of the day **1.40** 5 News at Lunchtime **1.45** Home and Away. Marilyn misreads Irene's feelings (r) **2.15** FILM **Secrets By the Shore (PG, TVM, 2022)** After her sister goes missing, a woman returns to her hometown to help pick up the pieces, where she discovers a sinister secret. Thriller starring Christina DeRosa **4.00** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun. New series. Colin "Coco" Brown takes his alpacas to get their coats trimmed **5.00** 5 News at 5 **6.00** Susan Calman's Grand Day Out. The comedian visits Shakespeare Country (r) **6.55** 5 News Update



The Inheritance continues (9pm)

7.00 Motorway Cops: Catching Britain's Speeders An urgent call leads to a multi-vehicle pursuit to rescue a child, as PC Ian Cosgrove tracks down the suspect on the M6 (3/10) (r)

7.55 5 News Update

8.00 Police Interceptors Rich and Ash are on the trail of a potentially armed man suspected of smashing up a property, and Macca pursues a stolen Ford whose occupants run off into a field; followed by 5 News Update

9.00 The Inheritance As Dennis's death becomes the subject of an official police investigation, with DS Morris leading the charge, the siblings hunt for their father's previous will, trying to prove his intentions. **See Viewing Guide** (2/4)

10.00 The Killing Kind New series. Barrister Ingrid Lewis is trying to rebuild her life after getting too close to former client John Webster, who suddenly reappears. Thriller based on the novel by Jane Casey starring Emma Appleton (1/6)

11.05 Ambulance: Code Red A paramedic attends the scene of a double stabbing, where two neighbours have been attacked. Plus, Ambulance Control receive an emergency call reporting a man trapped under a bus (10/10) (r)

12.00 Police Interceptors (r) **1.00am** Live NFL: NY Jets v Buffalo Bills (Kick-off **1.15am**) **4.30** Entertainment News on 5 **4.40** Great Artists (r) (SL) **5.05** House Doctor (r) (SL) **5.30** Entertainment News on 5 **5.35** Milkshake! (r) (SL) **5.45** Paw Patrol (r)

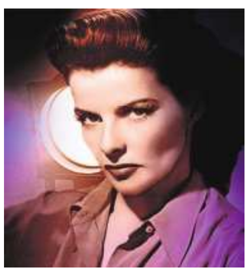
Monday 11 | Primetime digital guide

FV Freeview **FS** Freesat



Edward Heath

A Very Singuar Man is Michael Cockerell's portrait of the former prime minister **BBC4, 10.10pm**



Katharine Hepburn: Call Me Kate is a profile of the Hollywood star (Sky Arts, 11.15pm)

Monday 11

Film guide

Film4
FV 14 FS 300 SKY 313

11.00am It Should Happen to You (U, 1954) Comedy starring Judy Holliday
12.45pm The Swimmer (PG, 1968) Drama starring Burt Lancaster and Kim Hunter
2.35 Went the Day Well? (PG, 1942) Second World War drama starring Leslie Banks
4.25 Sands of Iwo Jima (PG, 1949) Adventure starring John Wayne and John Agar
6.40 The Day After Tomorrow (12, 2004) A climatologist races across America to rescue his son as freak weather conditions cause devastation around the world. Disaster thriller starring Jake Gyllenhaal
9.00 xXx (12, 2002) A jailed extreme sports star is offered a way out of prison if he agrees to take on a gang of international terrorists. Action adventure starring Vin Diesel and Samuel L Jackson
11.30 Naked (18, 1993) An angry but highly intelligent Mancunian drifter flees to London, where he antagonises everyone he meets, forcing them to question their existence. Drama starring David Thewlis, Lesley Sharp and Katrin Cartidge. **See Film Choice**
2.10-4.00am Night of the Kings (15, 2021) Fantasy drama with Steve Tientcheu

Talking Pictures TV
FV 82 FS 306 SKY 328 VIRGIN 445

6.00am Strictly for the Birds (PG, 1964) Comedy starring Tony Tanner and Joan Sims
7.15 Guilty? (PG, 1956) Drama starring Barbara Laage
9.05 Broken Lance (U, 1954) Western starring Spencer Tracy and Robert Wagner
11.00 The Night Has Eyes (PG, 1942) Thriller with Joyce Howard and James Mason
12.35pm Our Miss Fred (PG, 1972) Second World War comedy starring Danny La Rue and Alfred Marks
2.30 Crown Court
3.00 Danger Ahead (U, 1940) Adventure starring James Newill and Dorothea Kent
4.05 Laughter in Paradise (U, 1951) Comedy with Alastair Sim and Joyce Grenfell
6.00 The Footage Detectives
7.00 Crime of Passion (PG, 1957) An ambitious woman commits murder to advance her husband's career. Melodrama starring Barbara Stanwyck, Sterling Hayden and Raymond Burr
8.45 Look at Life
9.00 The Gold Robbers
10.05-11.55pm Day of the Nightmare (PG, 1965) A dead woman returns from the grave to wreak vengeance upon her enemies. Horror starring John Ireland, Beverly Bain and Cliff Fields


Cate Blanchett in the drama Tár (Sky Premiere, 8pm)

GREAT! Movies
FV 34 FS 302 SKY 321 VIRGIN 425

9.00am Deadly Honeymoon (15, 2010) Mystery with Zoe McLellan and Summer Glau
10.50 GREAT! Movie News
11.00 Lost Letter Mysteries: Reunited Drama series
12.50pm GREAT! Movie News
1.00 Watching Over You (PG, 2018) Thriller starring Andrea Bogart and Reagan Pasternak
2.50 GREAT! Movie News
3.00 Real Murders: An Aurora Teagarden Mystery (PG, 2015) Whodunit starring Candace Cameron Bure
4.40 Big Fish (PG, 2003) Drama with Ewan McGregor
7.05 American Outlaws (PG, 2001) The residents of a small town unite to foil the plans of a conniving businessman intent on moving them out to make way for a railroad. Western starring Colin Farrell
9.00 The Next Three Days (12, 2010) A professor tries to prove his imprisoned wife is innocent of murder, but when he fails, he decides to break her out instead. Drama starring Russell Crowe
11.40-1.50am After Earth (12, 2013) Sci-fi adventure starring Will and Jaden Smith

Sky Cinema Premiere
SKY 301 VIRGIN 401

1.40pm Tár (15, 2022) Drama starring Cate Blanchett
4.20 80 for Brady (12, 2023) Comedy starring Lily Tomlin
6.00 Something in the Dirt (15, 2022) Two neighbours witness supernatural events in their apartment building and decide to film the phenomena. Comedy drama with Aaron Moorhead, Justin Benson and Issa Lopez
8.00 Tár (15, 2022) When accusations surface about maestro Lydia Tár and a graduate of her academy, every aspect of the tutor's life comes under scrutiny. Drama starring Cate Blanchett
10.40-12.45am Scream VI (18, 2023) Survivors of the Ghostface killings travel to New York, but are hunted by the masked murderer once again. Horror sequel starring Courteney Cox

Radio guide

Today's pick

The Gift
Radio 4, 11am
Over lockdown many of us spat into a vial and sent off the secrets of our being, our DNA, for an ancestry test. The results are not always what people hoped for. Across six episodes, Jenny Kleeman, *right*, meets the men and women whose lives changed for ever when they did what a growing number of us are doing — including two women in this opener with startling tales to tell. The focus of Kleeman's sleuthing



is the fallout from the activities of a doctor called Reynold Boyd in a Harley Street practice in the 1960s, the repercussions of which are still felt today.
Ben Dowell

Tuesday 12 | Viewing guide

Critic's choice Joshua & Benjamin and the Crown Shyness

BBC4, 10pm

The first thing that strikes you about Benjamin and Joshua Israel, *right*, the Jewish-Italian twins who star in this warm and mesmerising film, is their shock of hair and their 1980s-inspired look of hip-hop tracksuits. And that it is virtually impossible to tell them apart. Both also possess an extraordinary charisma, lust for life and a deep and profound affection for each other. And they both have a learning disability. But that doesn't stop them as we follow their 20th year in Valentina Bertani's film in which the access is so close and intimate that you sometimes wonder whether this is a piece of fiction and not a documentary. Neither man has much of a filter, but they do have a love for music, with an early sequence finding them by a lake, throwing in stones and discussing their ambitions. This involves playing with Beethoven (unlikely) and hearing the band Muse (which seems more possible), but it's a moment entirely typical of the seductive charm of a pair who feel that anything is possible. One of their more delicate goals is having sex with women, with Josh being somewhat direct in his approach and Benjamin having a romantic sensibility and setting his heart on a young woman in his peer group. As the year progresses their lives change in surprising ways, but their bond is unbreakable, making full sense of the unusual title, which derives from a technical term in forestry in which the tops of trees form a unified canopy but don't touch each other. These two, it seems, need to learn to grow together and apart. **Ben Dowell**



Only Murders in the Building

Disney+

The silliness continues as our podcasters continue their search for the killer of the Hollywood star Ben Glenroy. This episode is a real treat, with Matthew Broderick as a special guest star. Just as much as Meryl Streep has been game enough to take the joke of her character, Loretta Durkin, being an unsuccessful performer who cannot nail an accent, Broderick proves that he too is up for a laugh. There are lots of Ferris Bueller jokes, and this (fictionalised!) Broderick is essentially a huge pain to work with, as Oliver (Martin Short) quickly discovers. **BD**

Live Football: Scotland v England

Channel 4, 7pm

Matches between England and Scotland have always tended to involve high emotions, not least in 1977, when a Scottish win led to men in flares sitting on and breaking a Wembley crossbar. Now the Auld Enemies meet in Glasgow to commemorate the first international football match in 1872. That ended goalless, the same outcome as when the teams last met, at Euro 2020. With both sides on form, they'll be hoping to get the scoreboard ticking this time. Jules Breach presents, with Joe Cole, Jill Scott and Graeme Souness. **BD**

Living Next Door to Putin

BBC1, 8pm

The sight of the BBC reporter Katya Adler boarding a Nato plane and watching a training exercise for paratroopers from Germany, Italy and the US is a reminder of the seriousness of the situation in Europe. If Nato stood by after Russia's 2014 invasion of Ukraine, now the alliance wants to show that it will stand up to President Putin's aggression, seen as a power grab designed to destabilise Europe. Adler travels from Poland through the Baltic states and discovers a region where the war has reopened wounds from the Soviet era. **BD**

Stranger in My Family

BBC3, 9pm

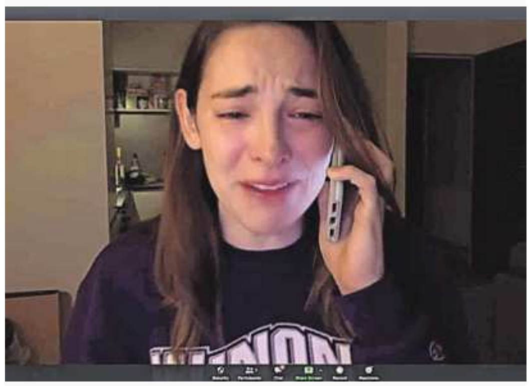
Luke had a typical upbringing in Rochdale, complete with Friday chippie teas, but he always felt like an outsider. He thought that this might be because of his sexuality (he is gay), but a DNA test reveals a fact that his mother has kept hidden — the man he calls Dad is not his biological father and he is mixed race. This film follows his quest to track down a person he knows only as Carlos, a bartender his mother met on holiday in Portugal in the 1990s. The man he grew up believing was his dad also has a tale to tell. **BD**

Films of the day

Host (15, 2020)

BBC3, 11.25pm

Top marks to the British director Rob Savage for making something watchable out of this titter-inducing lockdown concept. It's a horror, set during a Zoom meeting. There's a joke in there, obviously, about all Zoom meetings being horrific, but Savage opts to maximise the scares as six university friends gather for an online seance that misfires when a spirit is summoned. The key is the chemistry between the six relative unknowns (Haley, the lead Zoomer, is played by Haley Bishop, *below*), who banter and bicker with enough credibility to give the jumps impact. The open acknowledgment of the pandemic is also a strength and helps to accentuate the punitive nature of Zoom and the strange sudden-death environment that Covid has created. (56min) **Kevin Maher**



The Two Faces of January (12, 2014)

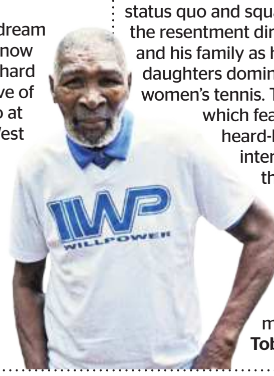
BBC2, 11.45pm

The immediate parallel here is *The Talented Mr Ripley* — both films are based on Patricia Highsmith stories and deal with American expats in Europe. While this cool, crisp thriller may not have the complexity and polish of Anthony Minghella's film, it does have a lean, urgent economy of storytelling that makes for a watchable yarn. The photogenic backdrop is Greece in 1962. The American tour guide and occasional conman Rydal (Oscar Isaac) is struck by a glamorous couple. Chester and Colette MacFarland (Viggo Mortensen and Kirsten Dunst) are gilded by wealth and effortless charisma, but they are not all they seem, and soon Rydal is helping them to go on the run. The sexual tensions between the central characters are palpable. (96min) **Wendy Ide**

Catch up

On the Line: The Richard Williams Story
Sky/Now

"It started with a dream back in 1978, and now it's here," says Richard Williams on the eve of Venus turning pro at the Bank of the West Classic on October 31, 1994. The hype surrounding Venus and Serena Williams had reached fever pitch, and the 14-year-old beat Shaun Stafford, ranked 57th in the world. Tennis was about to change — so too was Richard's life. Luminaries including Billie Jean King and Pam Shriver contribute to this absorbing film about how he tore up the tennis rulebook, upset the status quo and squared up to the resentment directed at him and his family as his daughters dominated women's tennis. The film, which features never-heard-before interviews from the 1980s onwards, paints a complex portrait of a complex man. **Toby Earle**



Regional programmes

● **BBC2 Wales As BBC2 except: 1.45pm** Welsh First Minister's Questions. Mark Drakeford answers questions from the Senedd **2.45** Impossible. Quiz, hosted by Rick Edwards (r) **3.30** Eggheads (r) **4.00** The Wonder of Animals (r) **4.30-5.00pm** Great British Railway Journeys (r)

● **BBC1 N Ireland As BBC1 except: 10.40pm** Golf: Irish Open Highlights. Action from the K Club **11.25** Ellie Simmonds: A World Without Dwarfism? (r) **12.25am** Boot Dreams: Now or Never. Anton Ferdinand teaches how to psych out opponents (r) **1.25-6.00am** BBC News

● **BBC2 N Ireland As BBC2 except: 10.00-10.30pm** Jailed: Inside Maghaberry Prison. An interview with a murderer (r)

● **ITV1 Wales As ITV1 except: 8.00pm** Welsh Lives. Following the story of Wales' first world champion surfer, Llywelyn Williams **8.30-9.00** Fishlock's Choice (r) **10.45** Face to Face. Adrian Masters is joined by Kevin Brennan **11.15 FILM Casino Royale (1967) 1.25-1.50am** Wales on TV. Archive stories (r)

● **STV As ITV1 except: 10.30pm** STV News **10.40** Scotland Tonight **11.05** Heathrow: Britain's Busiest Airport. Storm Eunice wreaks havoc at Heathrow airport (r) **12.05-1.00am** Long Lost Family (r) **3.45-5.00am** Night Vision

● **UTV As ITV1 except: 8.00pm** Mahon's Way. Joe Mahon visits the Clogher Valley in County Tyrone **8.30-9.00pm** Being James Martin. A look at the success of Belfast-born actor James Martin

● **BBC Scotland 7.00pm** Beechgrove Garden. Kirsty Wilson shows how to take cuttings from hydrangeas (r) **7.30** Grand Tours of Scotland's Rivers (r) **8.00** Island Crossings (r) **9.00** The Nine **10.00** Rise of the Clans (r) **11.00pm-Midnight** David Wilson's Crime Files (r)

● **S4C 6.00am** Cyw (r) **12.00** News **12.05pm** Yn y Fan a'r Lle (r) **12.30** Heno Aur (r) **1.00** Bwyd Epic Chris (r) **1.30** Ralïo+ (r) **2.00** News **2.05** Prynhawn Da **3.00** News **3.05** Fairbourne: Y Mor Wrth y Drws (r) **4.00** Awr Fawr: Olobobs (r) **4.05** Sam Tân (r) **4.15** Pablo (r) **4.30** Blero yn Mynd i Ocido (r) **4.45** Ahoi! (r) **5.00** Stwnsh: Siwrne Ni (r) **5.05** Cath-Od (r) **5.20** Gwrach y Rhibyn (r) **5.40** Boom! (r) **5.55** Larfa (r) **6.00** Pysgod i Bawb (r) **6.30** Sgorio **6.57** News S4C **7.00** Heno **7.30** News **8.00** Pobol y Cwm **8.25** Rownd a Rownd **8.55** News **9.00** Mike Phillips: Croeso i Dubai. Former Wales rugby player Mike Phillips follows Welsh people living in Dubai **10.00** Seiclo: Vuelta a España **10.30-12.15** Troseddau'r Baltig

(r) **repeat** (SL) **In-vision signing**

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thetimes.co.uk/tvplanner

Tuesday 12

BBC1

6.00am Breakfast **9.15** Morning Live **10.00** Critical Incident (r) **10.45** Expert Witness (r) **11.15** Homes Under the Hammer **12.15pm** Bargain Hunt (r) **1.00** BBC News at One; Weather **1.30** BBC Regional News; Weather **1.45** Doctors. Daniel and Zara's relationship teeters **2.15** Money for Nothing. Items being rejuvenated include some old skis and a wooden blanket box (r) **3.00** Escape to the Country. Denise Nurse helps a buyer search for a new home in Norfolk **3.45** Garden Rescue. A Scandinavian-inspired garden in Gloucester **4.30** The Finish Line. Quiz, hosted by Roman Kemp and Sarah Greene **5.15** Pointless. Quiz, hosted by Alexander Armstrong and Ria Lina **6.00** BBC News at Six; Weather **6.30** BBC Regional News; Weather



Presenter Katya Adler (8pm)

7.00 The One Show Presented by Alex Jones and Jermaine Jenas

7.30 EastEnders Phil tries to make amends with Kat, and Chelsea struggles with Whitney's impending departure

8.00 Living Next Door to Putin Katya Adler travels along the Russian border to investigate the consequences of Putin's war on the west and how life is changing for the people living there. **See Viewing Guide** (1/2)

9.00 The Following Events Are Based on a Pack of Lies Alice discovers new evidence in her case against Rob which, unbeknownst to her, forces Rob's hand. Cheryl is driven into a rash decision which will have life-long implications (3/5)

10.00 BBC News at Ten

10.30 BBC Regional News

10.40 Ellie Simmonds: A World Without Dwarfism? Ellie investigates a drug promising to make children with Achondroplasia grow closer to average height, and the repercussions of a treatment that could end dwarfism (r)

11.40 Boot Dreams: Now or Never Anton Ferdinand teaches how to psych out opponents as the squad prepare to face their first full men's team. Locker room banter boils over. George talks to Roman about stress (4/6) (r)

12.40am Weather for the Week Ahead **12.45** BBC News. The day's headlines

BBC2

6.30am Bargain Hunt (r) **7.15** Garden Rescue (r) **8.00** Sign Zone: Expert Witness (r) (SL) **8.30** Robson Green's Weekend Escapes (r) (SL) **9.00** Nicky Campbell **10.00** BBC News **12.15pm** Politics Live **1.00** The Super League Show. Action from the latest matches (r) **1.45** Impossible (r) **2.30** Eggheads (r) **3.00** The Wonder of Animals. The complex communication skills of the dolphin (r) **3.30** Great British Railway Journeys. Warwick to Rye (r) **4.00** Who Do You Think You Are?. Ruth Jones traces her family tree (r) **5.00** Flog It! From Capesthorne Hall (r) **6.00** Richard Osman's House of Games. With Babatunde Aleshe and Richie Anderson (r) **6.30** Marcus Wareing's Tales from a Kitchen Garden. The chef visits a chicken farmer to adopt two more hens



Henpocalypse continues (10pm)

7.00 Coastal Defenders A mooring point known as a dolphin has brought the Isle of Wight ferries to a standstill and the dive team must work day and night to repair the structure. They then face one of their smallest but fiercest challenges (r)

8.00 This Farming Life The MacDonalds walk their 150 pregnant Highland cattle from the mainland of North Uist to the tidal island of Vallay. While, in the Cairngorms National Park, Jenni is planning for the business year ahead (3/12)

9.00 Ultimate Wedding Planner The final two planners face the ultimate challenge as they go head to head to pull off a wedding from scratch in just three days. Last in the series

10.00 Henpocalypse! Zara finds herself in emotional turmoil over her fiance Gary (5/6)

10.30 Newsnight The day's important national and international news stories, with Victoria Derbyshire

11.15 Women's ODI Cricket Highlights from the second ODI between England and Sri Lanka

11.45 FILM The Two Faces of January (12, 2014) Thriller starring Viggo Mortensen and Kirsten Dunst. **See Film Choice**

1.15am Sign Zone: Money for Nothing. Sign-writer Joel Poole repurposes some rusty saws (r) (SL) **2.00** Celebrity MasterChef (r) (SL) **3.00-3.45** Garden Rescue (r) (SL)

ITV1

6.00am Good Morning Britain **9.00** Lorraine **10.00** This Morning **12.30pm** Loose Women. More celebrity interviews and topical debate **1.30** ITV News; Weather **1.55** Regional News; Weather **2.00** James Martin's Spanish Adventure. James is introduced to torrijas in Castile and Leon and visits a cattle farm producing steak **3.00** Tenable. Quiz show hosted by Warwick Davis. A team of five university friends take on a series of Top 10 list questions **4.00** Tipping Point. Ben Shephard hosts the arcade-themed quiz in which contestants drop tokens down a choice of four chutes in the hope of winning a £10,000 jackpot **5.00** The Chase. Quiz show hosted by Bradley Walsh **6.00** Regional News; Weather **6.30** ITV News; Weather



Bond spoof Casino Royale (10.45pm)

7.30 Emmerdale Cain asks if Caleb would like to get out of town, and is determined to keep the reason for their trip a secret

8.00 Love Your Garden Alan Titchmarsh and the team head to the town of Hinckley to surprise a 96-year-old WWII veteran with a stunning transformation. Setting about to bring a classic beautiful country garden to an inaccessible space

9.00 My Mum, Your Dad Davina heads into the retreat to see how the grown-ups are getting on. Some of the parents open up to her about their past relationships, and Davina has to console a woman who wonders if she'll ever find love (2/10)

10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather

10.30 Regional News

10.45 FILM Casino Royale (PG, 1967) Ageing spy James Bond comes out of retirement to tackle a mysterious mastermind who wants to take over the world. Meanwhile, another agent disguises himself as Bond to face the evil genius over the baccarat table. Spoof spy adventure starring David Niven, Peter Sellers and Woody Allen

1.00am My Mum, Your Dad. The parents open up to Davina about their past relationships (r) **1.50** Starstruck (r) **2.55** Tenable. Five university friends take on a series of lists (r) (SL) **3.45** Unwind with ITV **5.00** James Martin's Spanish Adventure (r) (SL)

Channel 4

6.05am Countdown (r) **6.45** Cheers (r) **7.10** Cheers (r) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond (r) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond (r) **8.25** Frasier (r) **8.55** Frasier (r) **9.25** Frasier (r) **9.55** Château DIY (r) **10.55** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces (r) **11.55** Channel 4 News Summary **12.00** Steph's Packed Lunch **2.10pm** Countdown. With Justin Moorhouse in Dictionary Corner **3.00** A Place in the Sun. A couple seek a holiday home on the island of Crete (r) **4.00** A Place in the Sun. Finding an open-plan property in the coastal town of Lagos on Portugal's Algarve **5.00** Four in a Bed. The rivals go self-catering at Stable Oak Cottages in Kent (r) **5.30** Come Dine with Me. A supporting actor brings an international flavour to his dinner party (r) **6.00** Channel 4 News



England's Harry Kane (7pm)

7.00 Live International Football: Scotland v England (Kick-off **7.45**) All the action from the 150th Anniversary Heritage Match at Hampden Park. This is football's oldest international rivalry and the sides last met in the group stage of Euro 2020, when they drew 0-0. Scotland were perhaps the happier side on the night given England had home advantage at Wembley Stadium, but it was Gareth Southgate's men who went on to progress from the group and reach the final. Jules Breach presents, with analysis from Joe Cole, Jill Scott and Graeme Souness. **See Viewing Guide**

10.15 Selling Super Houses PK piles on the pressure with a huge marketing task — to produce a video tour, particulars and presentation for two houses. Afterwards he hosts a lunch with industry professionals and a surprise pitch is sprung upon the losing team (3/6)

11.20 Gogglebox The armchair critics share their opinions on what they have been watching during the week, with cameras capturing their instant reactions and lively discussions (r) (SL)

12.20am Football Highlights. Scotland v England **1.15** Ramsay's 24 Hours to Hell and Back (r) (SL) **2.05** Couples Come Dine with Me (r) **3.00** Screw (r) (SL) **3.55** Undercover Boss USA (r) **4.45** Location, Location, Location (r) (SL) **5.40** Beat the Chef (r)

Channel 5

6.00am Milkshake! **9.15** Jeremy Vine. The issues of the day **11.15** Storm Huntley. Debate on the day's talking points continues **12.40pm** Alexis Conran. The important stories of the day **1.40** 5 News at Lunchtime **1.45** Home and Away. Another text from Felicity's blackmailer arrives (r) **2.15** FILM **Twisted House Sitter (12, TVM, 2021)** A destitute woman crosses paths with a beautiful, affluent, entrepreneur, and decides to take over her life. Thriller starring Crystal-Lee Naomi **4.00** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun. Jojo hopes to make a sale as she shows a British couple around three caravans **5.00** 5 News at 5 **6.00** Susan Calman's Grand Day Out. Susan discovers beautiful parts of Northern Ireland's coastline (r) **6.55** 5 News Update



The Great Flood of '07 (9pm)

7.00 IKEA: How Do They Really Do It? Industry insiders, retail experts and former employees lift the lid on the world's biggest furniture seller (r)

7.55 5 News Update

8.00 The Yorkshire Vet David Melleney and Rohin Aojula team up to try to save a cow and her unborn calf, and Julian Norton is shocked to find a ping pong ball-sized lump inside a shar-pei cross's mouth; followed by 5 News Update

9.00 The Great Flood of '07 Documentary giving an account of the devastating floods in 2007 that caused havoc and damage across the UK during the wettest summer since records began

10.30 Motorway Cops: Catching Britain's Speeders PC Rich Woodward is part of a operation to catch a vehicle being driven with cloned number plates, while Inspector Sullivan is called to a crash between two cars (6/10) (r)

11.30 Shoplifters & Scammers: At War with the Law Documentary following shopping mall security staff (r)

12.25am Traffic Cops (r) **1.20** PlayOJO Live Casino Show **3.20** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun (r) **4.10** Get Your Tatts Out: Kavos Ink (r) (SL) **4.55** Nick's Quest (r) (SL) **5.20** House Doctor (r) (SL) **5.45** Entertainment News on 5 **5.50** Milkshake! (r) (SL)

Tuesday 12 | Primetime digital guide



The Evil Dead
Sam Raimi's cult Eighties horror about a haunting in an isolated cabin
BBC3, 10pm

FV Freeview **FS** Freesat

TalkTV
FV 237, FS 217, SKY 522, VIRGIN 606

6.00am James Max Reports
6.30 The Julia Hartley-Brewer Breakfast Show Discussion.
9.30 Mike and Kev Mike Graham and Kevin O'Sullivan give their take on the front pages
10.00 The Independent Republic of Mike Graham The host looks through the papers
1.00pm Ian Collins Hard-hitting monologues and debates
3.00 Kevin O'Sullivan The host tackles the day's big stories
5.00 Vanessa Feltz Big names and exclusive interviews
7.00 Jeremy Kyle Live The host takes on the day's issues
8.00 Piers Morgan Uncensored The host presents his verdict on the day's events
9.00 The Talk A panel of famous faces debate the hot topics everybody's talking about
10.00 First Edition A look at tomorrow's newspapers
11.00-12.00m't Piers Morgan Uncensored Debates

BBC3
FV 23, FS 179, SKY 115, VIRGIN 107

7.00pm The Blue Planet Marine life in coastal regions (8/8)
8.00 Top Gear America Three vehicles with a long history of military service (6/10)
8.35 Ghosts US A woman comes to Woodstone to learn more about Alberta
8.55 Loop Observational animation set on a train
9.00 Stranger in My Family Documentary following a man's search for his biological father, enlisting the help of genealogists, family friends and distant relations he finds online. **See Viewing Guide**
10.00 FILM The Evil Dead (18, 1982) Sam Raimi's horror starring Bruce Campbell and Ellen Sandweiss
11.25-12.20am FILM Host (15, 2020) Horror mystery starring Haley Bishop, Jemma Moore and Radina Drandova. **See Film Choice**

BBC4
FV 9/24, FS 173, SKY 116, VIRGIN 108

7.00pm Secret Life of Farm Animals Why pigs are intelligent and masters in the art of deception (3/3)
8.00 Great Coastal Railway Journeys Michael reaches the terminus of the West Highland Line at Mallaig
8.30 Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em Frank looks for work (7/7)
9.00 Yes Minister Hacker believes he needs to know everything going on, and is furious to learn Sir Humphrey is withholding
9.30 The Thick of It The media suggests Nicola as a potential leadership candidate (6/8)
10.00 Benjamin, Joshua and the Crown Shyness: Storyville Documentary about a pair of Israeli twins struggling to fit in. **See Viewing Guide**
11.35-12.30am The Violence Paradox Evidence the world is more peaceful (2/2)

More 4
FV 18, FS 124, SKY 136, VIRGIN 147

6.55pm The Dog House A family get more than they bargained for when they are introduced to hounds, Pepe and Tink — who cannot be separated (5/9)
7.55 Grand Designs Kevin McCloud returns to Devon to meet a man who wanted to build one of the biggest houses the programme has ever seen
9.00 24 Hours in A&E A heart attack victim undergoes an emergency procedure (2/13)
10.00 Rescue: Extreme Medics Medics in Glasgow rush to the scene of a 55-year-old farmer who has suffered a serious head injury, after falling through the roof of a barn (3/5)
11.05-12.05am The Emergency Ward Dr Mya finds herself juggling patients like they're balls and a Scottish Dr has problems being understood

Sky Atlantic
SKY 108

6.50pm Ray Donovan Tensions mount when Mickey is kicked out of Bunchy's apartment (12/12) (R)
7.55 Game of Thrones Cersei and Tywin plot their next move after Tommen's coronation (7/10) (R)
9.00 The Lovers A Belfast supermarket worker begins a relationship with a political broadcaster (1/6) (R)
9.40 Billions Prince clashes with his employees, Ira turns to Chuck for help, while Wendy and Luke bond (5/12) (R)
10.45 The Gilded Age Ada and Aurora rush to stop Marian from making a decision, while Bertha and Mrs Astor's clash impacts all of New York society (9/9) (R)
11.55-12.55am Drift: Partners in Crime Ali hides with Frida in the Alps and Leo tries to uncover the conspirators' identities (5/10) (R)

Sky Documentaries
SKY 121, VIRGIN 188

6.55pm The Vietnam War Richard Nixon wins the presidency, promising law and order at home and peace overseas, while soldiers on both sides witness terrible savagery and unflinching courage in Vietnam (7/10) (R)
8.00 100 Foot Wave In Nazaré, Portugal, an unprecedented swell from Hurricane Epsilon kicks the 2020 big-wave surfing season into high gear (1/6) (R)
9.00 Chernobyl: The Lost Tapes Archive footage and witness accounts reveal the story behind the 1986 nuclear disaster and the heroic efforts made to prevent another explosion (R)
11.00-1.10am Music Box The story of Woodstock 1999, a music festival promoted to echo unity but instead devolved into riots, lootings and sexual assaults (1/6) (R)

ITV2
FV 6, FS 113, SKY 118, VIRGIN 115

7.00pm Family Fortunes Game show, hosted by Gino D'Acampo
8.00 Superstore Jonah struggles at Amy's daughter's quinceanera
8.30 Superstore
9.00 Gordon, Gino and Fred: American Road Trip Gordon Ramsay, Gino D'Acampo and Fred Sirieix tour Mexico, searching for the world's best breakfast
10.15 Plebs (7/9)
10.45 Plebs (8/9)
11.15 Family Guy
11.45-12.15am Family Guy

ITV3
FV 10, FS 115, SKY 119, VIRGIN 117

6.55pm Heartbeat Walker is taken hostage by a man wanting revenge for his brother's arrest
8.00 Midsomer Murders A man is murdered ahead of the reopening of a deserted village
10.00 Trigger Point A far-right group claims responsibility for the mosque attack (3/6)
11.05-12.10am Trigger Point Sonya manages to trace the chemical explosive HMX used by the bombers to a government lab at Porton Down (4/6)

ITV4
FV 26, FS 117, SKY 120, VIRGIN 118

7.00pm BattleBots Former champion Tombstone tries to protect his reputation
8.00 World Superbike Highlights Highlights of the ninth round of the campaign from Magny-Cours
9.00 World Rally Championship Highlights Action from the Acropolis Rally Greece, held around the city of Lamia
10.00 All Elite Wrestling: Rampage
11.10-1.15am FILM Mad Max (18, 1979) Action thriller starring Mel Gibson and Joanne Samuel

E4
FV 13, FS 122, SKY 135, VIRGIN 106

7.00pm Young Sheldon George Sr asks Sheldon to keep a secret
7.30 Young Sheldon Missy and Sheldon take part in a university research study on twins
8.00 First Dates Ireland New series. Among the socially distanced daters are a mohawked man from Tipperary and best friends from Down (1/14)
9.00 Celebs Go Dating Chloe heads out on a date with Teejay
10.00 Gogglebox From 2020
11.05-12.10am Naked Attraction

Dave
FV 19, FS 157, SKY 111, VIRGIN 127

7.00pm Richard Osman's House of Games Trivia-based games
7.40 Richard Osman's House of Games With Shappi Khorsandi
8.20 Would I Lie to You? With Lorraine Kelly and Sue Perkins
9.00 QI XL With Bill Bailey, Sandi Toksvig and Jason Manford
10.00 Have I Got a Bit More News for You Satirical quiz with Grace Dent and Kiri Pritchard-McLean
11.00 Have I Got a Bit More Old News for You With Richard Osman
12.00-12.40am Mock the Week

Drama
FV 20, FS 158, SKY 143, VIRGIN 116

6.50pm Last of the Summer Wine Seymour makes a promise
7.25 Last of the Summer Wine Seymour gallantly volunteers to help teach Edie to drive
8.00 Dalziel & Pascoe A jockey collapses at the racecourse
10.20 New Tricks A market trader's death is linked to a series of drug rapes. Sheila Hancock guest stars
11.35-1.40am Silent Witness A woman is murdered and the forensic evidence leads the team to a cosmetic clinic

Yesterday
FV 27, FS 159, SKY 155, VIRGIN 129

7.00pm Bangers & Cash (8/10)
8.00 Joanna Lumley's Japan Joanna begins a 2,000-mile journey across Japan (1/3)
9.00 Retro Electro Workshop Shamil hunts down a battered 1940s Marconi Radiogram that has seen better days (9/6)
10.00 Bangers & Cash: Restoring Classics A red Vauxhall Astra GTE gives the team a headache (1/6)
11.00 Abandoned Engineering
12.00-12.30am Great British Railway Journeys

PBS America
FV 84, FS 155, SKY 174, VIRGIN 187

6.15pm The War Communities recall the Second World War
7.20 The World after Stonehenge The battles that marked the beginning of Roman Britain (3/4)
8.30 Hitler's Slaves: Forced Labour Under the Nazis The story of Hitler's army of slave labourers
9.35 Taken Hostage The stage for the Iran hostage crisis
10.50 The World after Stonehenge The beginning of Roman Britain
12.00-1.10am Hitler's Slaves: Forced Labour Under the Nazis

Sky Arts
FV 11, FS 147, SKY 130, VIRGIN 140

7.00pm The Joy of Painting Depicting mountain peaks (6/13)
7.30 The Joy of Painting Bob Ross paints subtle hills (7/13)
8.00 Discovering Westerns on Film The origins of the movie genre
9.30 Comedy Legends Barry Cryer pays tribute to Steve Martin
10.30 Discovering: The Monkees Critics discuss the rise of the band
11.00 The Lot of Fun: Where the Movies Learned to Laugh
12.00-1.00am Dr Jack and Mr Nicholson A profile of the actor

Sky History
SKY 123, VIRGIN 131

7.00pm Forged in Fire Eight armed forces members take part
8.00 What on Earth? The hunting of Jack the Ripper from space
9.00 History's Greatest Mysteries The secrets of Stonehenge
10.00 The UnXplained with William Shatner Whether scientific knowledge can help protect us from natural disasters
11.00 Paranormal Survivor The ghosts of prisoners past make a ghost tour a little too scary
12.00-1.00am Pawn Stars

Sky Max
SKY 113, VIRGIN 111

7.00pm Stargate Atlantis Sheppard and the team must persuade a village to evacuate
8.00 The Ultimate Romcom Movies With Clara Amfo, Ellie Taylor and Russell Kane
9.00 A Discovery of Witches Chris says he needs more samples from Matthew's family in order to fully research blood rage (2/7)
10.00 FILM Homefront (15, 2013) Crime thriller starring Jason Statham and James Franco
12.00-1.00am An Idiot Abroad

Nat Geographic
SKY 129, VIRGIN 183, BT 351

7.00pm Air Crash Investigation A UK billionaire and his family die in an Australian seaplane crash
8.00 Inside the SS Documentary about Hitler's private army (1/3)
9.00 Inside the SS A look at the role of the SS in the Holocaust (2/3)
10.00 WW2: Hell Under the Sea A US submarine commander who took on an entire enemy convoy in the South Pacific (3/6)
11.00 Air Crash Investigation A plane that burst into flames
12.00-1.00am Banged Up Abroad

Discovery
SKY 125, VIRGIN 177

7.00pm Wheeler Dealers
8.00 Outback Truckers
9.00 Gold Rush: Mine Rescue with Freddy & Juan Documentary
10.00 Hoffman Family Gold
11.00 Maritime Masters: Expedition Antarctica Double bill
12.00-1.00am How the Universe Works Documentary series

Sky Comedy
SKY 114, VIRGIN 112, BT 346

7.00pm Will & Grace
7.30 American Auto (13/13)
8.00 The Office (US) Double bill
9.00 Curb Your Enthusiasm (8/10)
9.35 Curb Your Enthusiasm (9/10)
10.15 Curb Your Enthusiasm (10/10)
10.50 The Brink (3/10)
11.25 The Brink (4/10)
12.00-12.35am Enlightened (3/10)

Comedy Central
SKY 112, VIRGIN 132, BT 344

6.55pm Friends Four episodes
9.00 FILM Funny People (15, 2009) A terminally ill comedian offers an aspiring stand-up the benefit of his guidance, so he can have some company in his last days. Comedy drama starring Adam Sandler and Seth Rogen
11.50-12.20am Your Face or Mine

Gold
SKY 110, VIRGIN 124, BT 343

7.00pm The Thin Blue Line
7.40 Dad's Army
8.15 Dad's Army Captain Mainwaring suffers a hangover
9.00 The Royle Family
9.40 Not Going Out
10.20 Not Going Out
11.00 Live at the Apollo
12.00-12.40am The Royle Family

W
FV 25, FS 156, SKY 132, VIRGIN 125

7.00pm MasterChef Australia
8.00 Ambulance Australia A girl calls after her grandfather falls
9.00 24 Hours in A&E
10.00 Gemma and Gorka: Life Behind the Lens
11.00 One Born Every Minute
12.00-1.00am One Born Every Minute Documentary series

Alibi
SKY 109, VIRGIN 114

7.00pm Elementary A man is shot dead entering his flat
8.00 Death in Paradise A company boss is killed during a team-building exercise (7/8)
9.00 So Help Me Todd Todd reunites with a childhood friend
10.00 Annika (5/6)
11.05-12.05am Person of Interest

Sky Main Event
SKY 401, VIRGIN 511, BT 440

12.00 Live Women's International One-Day Cricket: England v Sri Lanka Coverage of the second ODI in the three-match series from The County Ground, Northampton. England's Nat Sciver-Brunt will be looking to continue her fine form in the one-day format, having scored two successive centuries against Australia in the previous ODI series as part of the Ashes back in July
8.30pm Sky Sports News
10.30 Back Pages Tonight
11.00-12.00m't Sky Sports News

Sky Premier League
SKY 402, VIRGIN 512

7.00pm Netbusters
7.30 Netbusters
8.00 Gary Neville's Soccerbox With former fullback Ashley Cole
8.30 Gary Neville's Soccerbox With Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink
9.00 PL 100 Club The best of Andy Cole's goals in the Premier League
9.30 PL 100: Paul Scholes An interview with ex-Manchester United midfielder Paul Scholes
10.00 Premier League Icons A profile of Welsh winger Gareth Bale
10.30-12.30am PL Retro



The 1952 classic High Noon features in Discovering Westerns on Film (Sky Arts, 8pm)

Sky Cricket
SKY 404, VIRGIN 514

12.00 Live Women's International One-Day Cricket: England v Sri Lanka Coverage of the second ODI in the three-match series from The County Ground, Northampton
8.30pm Pushing Boundaries
9.45 World Cup Cricket Classics Sri Lanka v Bangladesh from 2003
10.00 Women's International One-Day Cricket Highlights of England v Sri Lanka
11.00-12.00m't One-Day International Cricket Highlights of South Africa v Australia

TNT Sports 1
SKY 410, VIRGIN 527, BT 430

10.15am Live Asia Cup Cricket Coverage of a match from Super Four stage of the competition
7.00pm Premier League Stories An interview with Kieron Dyer
7.30 Premiership Rugby Cup Action from Ealing Trailfinders v Northampton Saints
9.00 WWE Monday Night Raw
11.30pm-12.00m't Ariel Helwani Meets The acclaimed journalist sits down with WWE star Bayley
1.00-3.15am Live WWE NXT Wrestling coverage

TNT Sports 2
SKY 411, VIRGIN 528, BT 431

7.00pm Badminton Action from the China Open finals
9.00 MotoGP Rewind A look back at the best of the action from the Grand Prix of San Marino
9.15 Badminton Weekly
9.30 Premier League: The Big Interview An interview with a Premier League star
10.00 Fight Week UFC 293
11.00 Uefa Champions League Magazine News and updates
11.30-3.00am Live MLB Coverage of a Major League Baseball match

Tuesday 12

Film guide

Film4
FV 14 FS 300 SKY 313

11.00am The Last Hurrah (U, 1958) Drama starring Spencer Tracy and Jeffrey Hunter
1.25pm The Yellow Balloon (PG, 1953) Crime drama starring Andrew Ray
3.05 Red Mountain (PG, 1951) Western starring Alan Ladd
4.45 True Grit (PG, 1969) Western starring John Wayne
7.20 Table 19 (12, 2017) Dumped by the best man via text, a former maid of honour decides to pitch up at her friend's wedding anyway. Comedy with Anna Kendrick
9.00 Lion (PG, 2016) An Indian man adopted by an Australian couple as a youngster attempts to find his biological family. Biopic with Dev Patel and Nicole Kidman
11.20 Hancock (12, 2008) A PR executive decides to transform the image of a drunken superhero whose careless crime-fighting often does more harm than good. Comedy starring Will Smith
1.05-3.15am Ping Pong (PG, 1986) Comedy mystery with David Yip and Lucy Sheen

Talking Pictures TV
FV 82 FS 306 SKY 328 VIRGIN 445

6.00am Landslide (PG, 1937) Mystery starring Dinah Sheridan and Jimmy Hanley
7.15 Sherlock Holmes
7.50 Demobbed (U, 1944) Comedy starring Norman Evans and Nat Jackley
9.40 Born Of The Sea (U, 1949) Drama with Dorothea Paul and Betty Williams
10.40 Bulldog Drummond's Revenge (U, 1937) Vintage thriller starring John Sutton
11.45 She'll Have to Go (U, 1962) Comedy starring Bob Monkhouse and Alfred Marks
1.30pm Valley of the Dragons (PG, 1961) Sci-fi adventure starring Cesare Danova
3.10 Kings Go Forth (PG, 1958) Two battle-hardened American GIs find their friendship strained to breaking point as they pursue the same woman. Drama starring Frank Sinatra, Tony Curtis and Natalie Wood
5.25 Fireball XL-5
6.00 Colonel March of Scotland Yard
6.30 Scotland Yard
7.05 The Four Just Men
7.40 Dick Barton: Special Agent Adventure series
7.55 Look at Life
8.05 The Human Jungle
9.05 Maigret
10.55 Cellar Club with Caroline Munro
11.00-12.45am The Plague of the Zombies (15, 1966) A professor sets off to study a strange illness in Cornwall, where he is amazed to discover zombies working in a local tin-mine. Horror starring Andre Morell and John Carson


Dev Patel stars in the 2016 drama Lion (Film4, 9pm)

GREAT! Movies
FV 34 FS 302 SKY 321 VIRGIN 425

9.00am A Stolen Past (PG, 2018) Drama starring Jessica Barth and Paris Smith
10.50 GREAT! Movie News
11.00 Lost Letter Mysteries: From Paris with Love (PG, 2015) Drama starring Eric Mabius and Kristin Booth
12.50pm GREAT! Movie News
1.00 Kill Thy Neighbour (PG, 2018) Thriller starring Andrea Bogart and Hannah Barefoot
2.50 GREAT! Movie News
3.00 Three Bedrooms, One Corpse: An Aurora Teagarden Mystery (PG, 2016) Drama starring Candace Cameron Bure and Peter Benson
4.50 GREAT! Movie News
5.00 Reflections (15, 2008) Thriller with Timothy Hutton
6.55 Not Another Happy Ending (12, 2013) A publisher tries to make an author's life a misery, in the hope that it will bring her fresh inspiration. Comedy with Karen Gillan
9.00 Fifty Shades of Grey (18, 2015) A naive young literature student begins an affair with a mysterious billionaire who harbours dark desires. Erotic drama starring Jamie Dornan
11.25-1.20am Faster (15, 2010) Adventure starring Dwayne Johnson and Carla Gugino

Sky Cinema Premiere
SKY 301 VIRGIN 401

12.55pm 80 for Brady (12, 2023) Comedy starring Lily Tomlin and Jane Fonda
2.35 Something in the Dirt (15, 2022) Comedy drama starring Aaron Moorhead
4.35 Margaux (15, 2022) Thriller starring Madison Pettis and Vanessa Morgan
6.20 80 for Brady (12, 2023) Four friends embark on a road trip to the forthcoming Super Bowl. Comedy starring Lily Tomlin and Jane Fonda
8.00 Something in the Dirt (15, 2022) Two neighbours witness supernatural events in their apartment building and decide to film the phenomena. Comedy drama starring Aaron Moorhead
10.00-12.05am Scream VI (18, 2023) Horror sequel starring Courteney Cox

Radio guide

Today's pick

The Documentary
World Service, 9.30am
Today's edition, titled *Izabela in the Forest*, transports listeners to Europe's last primeval forest, Bialoweiza in Poland. It is an immersive experience rich in birdsong and animal sounds, including that of the rare European bison, recorded by Izabela Dluzyk, *right*, a Polish field recordist who has been blind from birth. She has developed a special sensitivity to birdsong since being given a tape recorder



by her family when she was 12 and immediately turning its microphone towards the sky. She identifies species entirely through her extraordinarily detailed depth of field of hearing. Ben Dowell

Wednesday 13 | Viewing guide

Critic's choice
Welcome to Wrexham
Disney+

The trials and tribulations of a non-league football club might not seem like a recipe for telly gold, but when that team is owned by acting royalty — the *Deadpool* star Ryan Reynolds and *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia*'s Rob McElhenney, *right* — the entertainment levels are raised. The first series of *Welcome to Wrexham*, which followed the takeover of Wrexham AFC and the club's first season under its new owners, was one of the unlikely TV hits of 2022, with more dramatic turns than an overblown soap opera, and plenty of humour and pathos. It made unlikely stars out of journeyman players, such as the talented forward Paul Mullin, and boosted Wrexham's profile, especially in the US. Spoilers ahead… In series one Wrexham narrowly missed out on promotion to League Two from the National League, where this sleeping giant of a football club has been languishing since 2008. The stewardship of Reynolds and McElhenney, and accompanying docuseries, has brought Wrexham millions of new fans, not to mention many naysayers who are disgruntled at the Welsh club's financial boost — they are the Manchester City of the lower leagues in terms of spending power. So expectations are sky high as the new season begins and the pressure is on for the team to win promotion. The series mixes action on and off the pitch with contributions from diehard Wrexham fans and (mostly) amusing interludes from the owners, who aren't afraid to send themselves up. Without promotion the project is unsustainable and another rollercoaster season is in store. Joe Clay



The Morning Show
AppleTV+

The Emmy award-winning satirical drama set in and around a morning news show's studios returns for a third series, with Jennifer Aniston and Reese Witherspoon reprising their roles as the bickering on-off friends/co-anchors. Disturbing their dynamic is Christina Hunter (Nicole Beharie), a competitive millennial and new anchor on the show. There is also added ham — Jon Hamm that is, playing Paul Marks, a future-tech titan who sets his sights on the UBA network, throwing its future into doubt. The first two episodes are available today and a fourth series has already been commissioned. **JC**

Voyage to Mars: The Longest Goodbye
BBC4, 8.30pm

Nasa plans to send astronauts to Mars, with the success of the probable three-year mission dependent on crew members overcoming unprecedented challenges. The most elusive of these are psychological, with the impact of disconnectedness and isolation impossible to predict. This film explores the Nasa psychologist Dr Al Holland's work with rookie astronauts as they grapple with the tension between their dream of reaching Mars and the need for human contact. **JC**

Celebrity Race Across the World
BBC1, 9pm

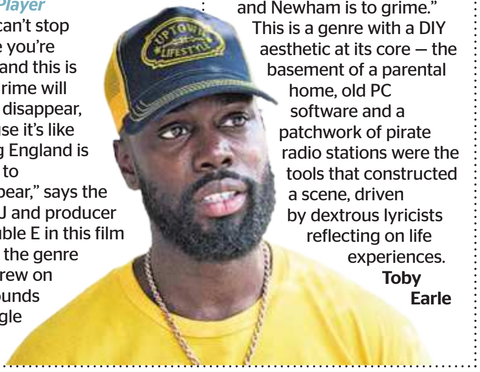
Celebrity versions follow reality shows as night follows day. In this case it's the Bafta-winning series in which contestants travel across continents only by land and sea and on a strict budget. The pairs taking part are the weather presenter Alex Beresford and his dad, Noel; the All Saints singer Mel Blatt and her mum, Helene; the McFly drummer Harry Judd and his mum, Emma; and the racing driver and pundit Billy Monger and his sister, Bonny. Starting in Morocco and ending in Norway, the journey will span 24 countries and more than 6,000 miles. **JC**

Domina
Sky Atlantic/Now, 9pm/10.05pm

A second series for the explicit swords-and-sandals epic chronicling the brutal age of the Roman Empire from the female gaze of Livia Drusilla (Kasia Smutniak). It's imperative that you watch the first series to have any idea what's going on, so complex are the political machinations that unfolded (though there is an abundance of expositional dialogue to help you find your feet). As the second series begins it's 19BC and Livia, now married to Gaius (Matthew McNulty), returns to Rome after three years away to find a city in revolt and her children in open rebellion. **JC**

Catch up

8 Bar: The Evolution of Grime — Storyville
BBC iPlayer



"You can't stop where you're from, and this is why grime will never disappear, because it's like saying England is going to disappear," says the MC, DJ and producer D Double E in this film about the genre that drew on the sounds of jungle and garage to become a powerful creative force. *Ghetts, the rapper and MC, provides a swift summary of how multicultural working-class areas brewed the sound: "Whatever the Bronx is to hip-hop, that's what Tower Hamlets and Newham is to grime." This is a genre with a DIY aesthetic at its core — the basement of a parental home, old PC software and a patchwork of pirate radio stations were the tools that constructed a scene, driven by dextrous lyricists reflecting on life experiences. **Toby Earle**

Regional programmes

• BBC2 N Ireland As BBC2 except: 10.00-10.30pm Henpocalypse! Zara finds herself in emotional turmoil over Gary **11.15** The Royle Family (r) **11.45** ODI Cricket. Highlights from England v New Zealand **12.45-1.15am** Mock the Week: The History Of. The last ever episode (r)
• BBC1 Scotland As BBC1 except: 2.15pm Politics Scotland **3.00-3.45** Money for Nothing. Sarah Moore searches for items at Beaconsfield recycling centre **11.45** Scottish Questions. From Westminster **12.15am** The Edit (r) **12.30** Ambulance. A baby born in the passenger seat of a car needs attention (r) **1.30** Weather for the Week Ahead **1.35-6.00am** BBC News
• STV As ITV1 except: 10.30pm STV News **10.40** Scotland Tonight **11.05** Peston. Political magazine show, hosted by Robert Peston **11.55** My Mum, Your Dad. The parents take part in a workshop to work through resentments they are holding on to (r) **12.50-1.20am** The People's History Show. The history of the old Hoover plant based in Cambuslang (r) **3.50-5.05am** Night Vision. News, sport and weather
• UTV As ITV1 except: 11.40-12.30am Love Your Garden. Alan and the team surprise a Second World War veteran with a garden transformation (r)
• BBC Scotland 7.00pm Scotland Sings (r) **8.00** Paramedics on Scene (r) **8.30** Scotland's Home of the Year (r) **9.00** The Nine **10.00** Junior Doctors: Life on the Wards. New series. Following six junior doctors at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary **10.30** The Ideal Scotsman. Exploring the changing face of Scottish masculinity (r) **11.30pm-Midnight** The Disasters That Shocked Scotland. Exploring the Mull of Kintyre helicopter crash (r)
• S4C 6.00am Cyw (r) **12.00** News **12.05pm** Cymry ar Gynfas (r) **12.30** Heno (r) **1.00** Dau Gi Bach (r) **1.30** Garddio a Mwy (r) **2.00** News **2.05** Prynhawn Da **3.00** News **3.05** Prosiect Pum Mil (r) **4.00** Awr Fawr (r) **5.00** Stwnsh (r) **6.00** Ceffylau Cymru (r) **6.30** Rownd a Rownd (r) **6.57** News S4C **7.00** Heno **7.30** News **8.00** Pobol y Cwm. Britt reveals who she's really been meeting **8.25** Dan Do. A farmhouse conversion in Ceredigion and a cosy bungalow near Bridgend **8.55** News **9.00** Anfamol. Ani throws herself into having a baby, believing it will solve all her problems **9.30** Rycia o 'Ma. New series. The ups and downs of Caernarfon women's rugby club **10.00** Seiclo: Vuelta a España **10.30** Hyd y Pwrs (r) **11.00-12.05** Cwpan Rygbi'r Byd Shane ac Ieuan (r)

(r) **repeat** (SL) **In-vision signing**

Films of the day

The Mustang (15, 2019)
Film4, 11.15pm

Matthias Schoenaerts reveals his latest thug with a heart in this spare, bleakly moving indie drama by the French director Laure de Clermont-Tonnerre, with Robert Redford as executive producer. Schoenaerts can hardly be accused of stretching himself by playing another taciturn hardman — this time it's Roman Coleman, an American prisoner with a violent past. He compellingly suggests compassion beneath the hulking exterior. Hope takes the form of mustangs, some of which are trained for auction by prison inmates. Roman's first attempt to control his horse is less than subtle, involving a flurry of left and right hooks. Slowly a bond forms. The parallel between man and mustang is clear, but never laboured. (96min) **Ed Potton**



Paris, Texas (15, 1984)
Film4, 1.10am

"I knew these people. These two people. They were in love with each other." And so begins the bravura 11-minute storytelling sequence at the climax of this iconic Eighties heartbreaker. It's delivered by a never better Harry Dean Stanton, *above*, playing Travis, a wandering loner who — as the film progresses and as the gorgeously precise dialogue from the writer Sam Shepard allows — is revealed to have a tortuous and tragic past. The guitar score from Ry Cooder is haunting and the panoramic vistas from the cinematographer Robby Müller are as breathtaking as any John Ford western, while the naturalistic performances and deft narrative structure make this the strongest film in the career of its director, Wim Wenders. (139min) **Kevin Maher**

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Wednesday 13

BBC1

6.00am Breakfast **9.15** Morning Live **10.00** Critical Incident (r) **10.45** Expert Witness (r) **11.15** Homes Under the Hammer (r) **12.15pm** Bargain Hunt (r) **1.00** BBC News at One; Weather **1.30** BBC Regional News; Weather **1.45** Doctors. Daniel shields Joe from the truth **2.15** Money for Nothing. Sarah Moore searches for items at Beaconsfield recycling centre **3.00** Escape to the Country. A couple looking for a home in North Yorkshire (r) **3.45** Garden Rescue. Lee Burkhill and Flo Headlam design a garden for a young family in Winchester **4.30** The Finish Line. Quiz, hosted by Roman Kemp and Sarah Greene **5.15** Pointless. Alexander Armstrong is joined by co-host Ria Lina **6.00** BBC News at Six; Weather **6.30** BBC Regional News; Weather


Race Across the World (9pm)

7.00 The One Show Live magazine show, co-hosted by Alex Jones

7.30 EastEnders Chelsea tries to restore peace by inviting her and Ravi's families to a party – but things don't go to plan

8.00 The Repair Shop Former West Ham goalkeeper Peter Grotier brings in a fragile and faded programme from a 1970 match he played against Santos of Brazil, asking if it can be restored without losing the autograph of his hero, Pele

9.00 Celebrity Race Across the World New series. Harry Judd, Billy Monger, Melanie Blatt and Alex Beresford each pair with a loved one on a 10,000km race from Africa to the Arctic, traveling on a limited budget. **See Viewing Guide** (1/6)

10.00 BBC News at Ten

10.30 BBC Regional News

10.40 Andrew Tate: The Man Who Groomed the World? Investigative documentary on the former kickboxer who rose to fame on social media before facing rape and human trafficking charges (r)

11.45 Ambulance A busy weekend night shift across Lancashire sees advanced paramedic Shaun dispatched to a baby born in the passenger seat of a car (2/6) (r)

12.45am Weather for the Week Ahead **12.50** BBC News. The day's headlines

BBC2

6.30am Money for Nothing (r) **7.15** Garden Rescue (r) **8.00** Sign Zone: Great Coastal Railway Journeys (r) (SL) **8.30** Marcus Wareing's Tales from a Kitchen Garden (r) (SL) **9.00** Nicky Campbell **10.00** BBC News **11.15** Politics Live **1.00pm** Impossible (r) **1.45** Eggheads. (r) **2.15** Murder, Mystery and My Family (r) **3.00** The Wonder of Animals (r) **3.30** Great British Railway Journeys. Warwick to Rye (r) **4.00** Who Do You Think You Are?. Mark Wright investigates his family history (r) **5.00** Flog It! From Huddersfield Town Hall (r) **6.00** Richard Osman's House of Games. With Babatunde Aleshe, Richie Anderson, Jo Caulfield and Carol Smillie (r) **6.30** Marcus Wareing's Tales from a Kitchen Garden. The chef learns the art of charcuterie


Presenter Emilia Fox (9pm)

7.00 Your Home Made Perfect Angela Scanlon presents a home makeover show with a difference, as cutting-edge virtual reality and visual effects enable people to see what the future of their home could look like, before it is built (1/8) (r)

8.00 Inside the Factory Gregg Wallace visits a croissant factory in France, and Cherry Healey talks to a professor who specialises in exploring the perfect way to eat the pastries. Plus, Ruth investigates the croissant (3/10) (r)

9.00 Jack the Ripper: The Case Reopened *Silent Witness* star Emilia Fox and Professor of Criminology David Wilson examine the infamous murders, which took place in the Whitechapel district of London in the late 19th century (r)

10.00 Mock the Week With Maisie Adam, Angela Barnes and Alasdair Beckett-King (1/13) (r)

10.30 Newsnight Analysis of the day's events. With Kirsty Wark

11.15 ODI Cricket England v New Zealand. Action from the third match in the four-game series, which came from The Kia Oval

12.15am Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby. Monica and Rob visit the Phinda Game Reserve (r) **1.15** Sign Zone: Ultimate Wedding Planner (r) (SL) **2.15** The Hidden World of Hospitality with Tom Kerridge (r) (SL) **3.15-3.45** Celebrity MasterChef (r) (SL)

ITV1

6.00am Good Morning Britain **9.00** Lorraine **10.00** This Morning **12.30pm** Loose Women. Another helping of topical studio discussion from a female perspective, featuring celebrity interviews **1.30** ITV News; Weather **1.55** Regional News; Weather **2.00** James Martin's Spanish Adventure. In Madrid, James samples dishes including garlic prawns, churros and a calamari sandwich, and also meets a blind food critic **3.00** Tenable. Quiz show hosted by Warwick Davis **4.00** Tipping Point. Ben Shephard hosts the quiz in which contestants drop tokens down a choice of four chutes in the hope of winning a £10,000 jackpot **5.00** The Chase. Quiz show hosted by Bradley Walsh **6.00** Regional News; Weather **6.30** ITV News; Weather


Dev confronts Aadi (8pm)

7.30 Emmerdale Cathy is officially diagnosed and blindsides Bob, while Cain and Caleb make a pact to stick together

8.00 Coronation Street Stu realises that Eliza has run away to Dom's, Roy's new house guest makes an impact, Dee-Dee scuppers her chances with Joel, and Dev uncovers the identity of Aadi's secret lover

9.00 My Mum, Your Dad The parents take part in a workshop where they are encouraged to acknowledge the past which some are struggling to let go of, but the workshop also leaves questions when not everyone shares their past (3/10)

10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather

10.30 Regional News

10.45 Peston Political magazine show hosted by Robert Peston, featuring major interviews with MPs, topical guests and figures

11.40 My Mum, Your Dad The parents partake in a workshop (3/10) (r)

12.30am The Chase. Quiz show, hosted by Bradley Walsh (r) **1.20** Tipping Point. Quiz, hosted by Ben Shephard (r) **2.10** Loose Women (r) **3.00** Tenable (r) (SL) **3.50** Unwind with ITV **5.05** James Martin's Spanish Adventure. Madrid (r) (SL)

Channel 4

6.05am Countdown (r) **6.45** Cheers (r) **7.10** Cheers (r) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond (r) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond (r) **8.25** Frasier (r) **8.55** Frasier (r) **9.25** Frasier (r) **9.55** Château DIY (r) **10.55** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces (r) **11.55** Channel 4 News Summary **12.00** Steph's Packed Lunch **2.10pm** Countdown. Justin Moorhouse is in Dictionary Corner **3.00** A Place in the Sun. Jasmine Harman helps a family to find a holiday home (r) **4.00** A Place in the Sun. Danni Menzies shows properties in the south-west of Tenerife **5.00** Four in a Bed. The rivals arrive at Hedgerow Luxury Glamping (r) **5.30** Come Dine with Me (r) **6.00** The Simpsons. Homer takes Ned Flanders to Las Vegas (r) **6.30** Hollyoaks. Lacey calls Rayne out for coercive control (r)


Prison drama Screw continues (9pm)

7.00 Channel 4 News Including sport and weather

8.00 Geordie Hospital Uplifting documentary following the work of NHS staff in Newcastle. Heart surgeon Asif performs valve replacement surgery on a 13-year-old, while the hospital chaplain trains up a new staff welfare dog called Fern

9.00 Screw Rose changes tactics to get what she needs from Louis. The truth finally comes out about Katy Trent's killer - and it's far more shocking than anyone could have imagined. Starring Ben Tavassoli, Nina Sosanya and Faraz Ayub (5/6)

10.00 First Dates A 21-year-old post-grad student struggles to find guys who stimulate her mentally, and would love to meet a rugby boy who's marriage material. She's paired with rugby-playing Tom Hardy impersonator (4/7) (r)

11.05 Secrets of the Female Orgasm Biochemist, former *Love Island* contestant and author Yewande Biala meets other women, scientists and therapists to hear their stories, research and advice on achieving an orgasm (r)

12.10am Remarkable Places to Eat (r) **1.05** Selling Super Houses (r) **2.00** FILM **The Handmaiden (18, 2016)** Psychological thriller starring Kim Min-hee. In Korean and English **4.20** Undercover Boss USA (r) **5.10** Couples Come Dine with Me (r)

Channel 5

6.00am Milkshake! **9.15** Jeremy Vine **11.15** Storm Huntley. Debate on the day's talking points continues **12.40pm** Alexis Conran **1.40** 5 News at Lunchtime **1.45** Home and Away. Felicity is haunted by flashbacks to the night of her assault (r) **2.15** FILM **Exit Stage Death: Picture Perfect Mysteries (PG, TVM, 2020)** While backstage, a photographer discovers the body of the show's leading lady, murdered before the curtain went up. Mystery starring Alexa PenaVega **4.00** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun. Tricia organises a fundraiser for a local cancer charity in Benidorm **5.00** 5 News at 5 **6.00** Susan Calman's Grand Day Out. Susan heads for the West Country, and travels from Bath to the village of Cheddar (r) **6.55** 5 News Update


Life in Norfolk and Suffolk (8pm)

7.00 Into Death Valley with Nick Knowles Nick ventures into one of the least hospitable places on Earth, a region in southwest America (1/2) (r)

7.55 5 News Update

8.00 Norfolk and Suffolk: Country & Coast On the Norfolk coast, chef Scott picks up fresh crab for his lunch time service, while shepherds Poppy and Joe check on lambs born overnight on their farm in Suffolk (2/6); then 5 News Update

9.00 Casualty 24/7: Every Second Counts New series. A patient is rushed into hospital suffering from serious burns, and he needs to be doused with water to try and stop the burns spreading further on his body

10.00 999: Critical Condition A woman has an aneurysm that could burst at any time and lead to her death. For doctor Sanjeev Nayak there are no second chances as he embarks on an extraordinary operation to save his patient (7/8) (r)

11.00 MTV VMAs 2023 The biggest stars come together to attend the annual ceremony, celebrating the best and biggest music videos of the year and honouring artists from the worlds of pop, rock, hip-hop and more

2.00am PlayOJO Live Casino Show **4.00** Get Your Tatts Out: Kavos Ink (r) (SL) **4.45** Nick's Quest (r) (SL) **5.10** House Doctor (r) (SL) **5.35** Entertainment News on 5 **5.40** Milkshake! Monkey's Amazing Adventures (r) (SL) **5.45** Paw Patrol (r)

Wednesday 13 | Primetime digital guide

FV Freeview FS Freesat



Domina
Kasia Smutniak reprises her role as Livia Drusilla in series two of the Roman drama
Sky Atlantic, 9pm



A new series of Discovering starts with a profile of Leonardo DiCaprio (Sky Arts, 9pm)

Wednesday 13

Film guide

Film4
FV 14 FS 300 SKY 313

11.00am Father Goose (U, 1964) Comedy drama with Cary Grant and Leslie Caron
1.20pm Young Winston (PG, 1972) Biopic of Winston Churchill starring Simon Ward and Anthony Hopkins
4.10 Attack! (PG, 1956) Second World War drama with Jack Palance and Eddie Albert
6.20 K-19: The Widowmaker (12, 2002) Fact-based thriller starring Harrison Ford
9.00 Conan the Barbarian (15, 2011) A warrior seeks revenge on the warlord who killed his father, and tries to stop him magically making himself all-powerful. Fantasy adventure starring Jason Momoa and Stephen Lang
11.15 The Mustang (15, 2019) A violent convict is given the chance to participate in a rehabilitation therapy programme involving the training of wild mustangs. Drama starring Matthias Schoenaerts. **See Film Choice**
1.10-4.00am Paris, Texas (15, 1984) Drama starring Harry Dean Stanton and Dean Stockwell. **See Film Choice**

Talking Pictures TV
FV 82 FS 306 SKY 328 VIRGIN 445

6.00am The Detectives
7.00 Kiss the Bride Goodbye (PG, 1945) Romantic comedy starring Patricia Medina
8.45 The Marked One (U, 1963) Thriller starring William Lucas and Zena Walker
10.00 Together
10.35 Railroaded (PG, 1947) Thriller starring John Ireland
12.05pm SOS Pacific (PG, 1959) Adventure with Richard Attenborough, Eddie Constantine and Pier Angeli
1.50 Look at Life
2.00 Upstairs, Downstairs
3.00 Saddle Up
3.05 Forty Guns (PG, 1957) Western starring Barbara Stanwyck and Dean Jagger
4.45 Saddle Up
4.50 Johnny Ringo
5.20 The Golden West
Virginia City Short film
5.30 Turn of Fate
6.00 For the Love of Ada
6.35 Bulldog Drummond in Africa (U, 1938) The detective heads off on a globetrotting adventure when one of his superior officers is kidnapped. Mystery starring John Howard and Heather Angel
7.45 Look at Life
8.00 Public Eye
9.05 An Innocent Man (18, 1989) A family man is framed by corrupt cops desperate to cover up their own mistakes, and finds himself behind bars. Thriller starring Tom Selleck
11.25-1.35am Picnic at Hanging Rock (PG, 1975) Period mystery starring Rachel Roberts, Dominic Guard and Helen Morse


Picnic at Hanging Rock (Talking Pictures TV, 11.25pm)

GREAT! Movies
FV 34 FS 302 SKY 321 VIRGIN 425

9.00am Target: My Daughter (PG, 2017) Drama with Yancy Butler and Karis Cameron
10.50 GREAT! Movie News
11.00 Lost Letter Mysteries: Truth Be Told (PG, 2015) Drama starring Ben Afful
12.50pm GREAT! Movie News
1.00 Lies Gone Viral (PG, 2018) Thriller with Shoshana Bush and Spencer Neville
2.50 GREAT! Movie News
3.00 An Aurora Teagarden Mystery: The Julius House (PG, 2016) Thriller starring Candace Cameron Bure
4.50 Bewitched (PG, 2005) Fantasy comedy with Nicole Kidman and Will Ferrell
7.00 Here Comes the Boom (12, 2012) A biology teacher becomes a mixed martial arts fighter in a bid to win enough money to save his school's music department. Comedy starring Kevin James
9.00 Fifty Shades Darker (18, 2017) Anastasia Steele and billionaire playboy Christian Grey continue their relationship. Erotic drama starring Dakota Johnson
11.20-1.30am New York, I Love You (15, 2009) Drama starring Natalie Portman and Hayden Christensen

Sky Cinema Premiere
SKY 301 VIRGIN 401

12.00am Something in the Dirt (15, 2022) Comedy drama starring Aaron Moorhead
2.10pm 80 for Brady (12, 2023) Comedy starring Lily Tomlin and Jane Fonda
4.05 Agent Game (15, 2022) Thriller with Dermot Mulroney
5.50 Something in the Dirt (15, 2022) Two neighbours witness supernatural events in their apartment building and decide to film the phenomena. Comedy drama starring Aaron Moorhead
8.00 80 for Brady (12, 2023) Four friends embark on a road trip to the Super Bowl. Comedy starring Lily Tomlin
9.45 The Cinema List: Unmissable Sky Originals
10.00-12.05am Scream VI (18, 2023) Horror sequel starring Courteney Cox

Radio guide

Today's pick

Spitfire: From the Ashes
Radio 4 Extra, 8pm
In September 1940 Spitfires were being assembled in the Supermarine factory in Southampton. This sleek fighter, *right*, with record-breaking top speeds and a reputation for precision, was to become one of Britain's most effective weapons against the Nazi air invasion. But the factory was about to be destroyed in three German bombing raids. This programme, first aired in 2020 and constructed from letters, autobiographies, oral histories and contemporary interviews by the historian Victoria Taylor, tells the story of the extraordinary efforts to keep production going. Ben Dowell



Thursday 14 | Viewing guide

Critic's choice Classic Movies: The Story of Brighton Rock

Sky Arts/Now, 8pm



***Brighton Rock* was perhaps Richard Attenborough's finest hour as an actor. At 24 he created one of the most chilling villains in British cinema: the baby-faced psychopath Pinkie Brown, who takes an unsettling satisfaction in his capacity for cruelty and ruthlessness. The 1947 screen adaptation of Graham Greene's 1938 novel is the subject of tonight's episode of the excellent *Classic Movies* strand, described in the introduction by the critic Ian Nathan as "one of the true exemplars of a very British flavour of film noir". It's directed by John Boulting from an unsparing screenplay by Greene and Terence Rattigan, and Nathan goes on to describe it as "a truly bleak report on the human condition". When Attenborough's cold-eyed hood discovers that a young waitress, Rose Brown (played by Carol Marsh, *right with Attenborough*), is the loose end that could tie him to a murder, he does the sensible thing: marries her then sets about destroying her life. "It was certainly one of the most violent British films I've ever seen," the film critic Derek Malcolm says. The Daily Mirror advised cinemagoers to avoid it, and it was banned in New South Wales. It was the worst advert for the charming seaside town in which it was set, and the council only granted the production leeway to shoot on location on the promise of a disclaimer declaring the crime wave that had afflicted Brighton a thing of the past. Nathan is in Brighton to tell the story of the film and the book, which "mixed the thrills of what [Greene] would classify as an entertainment with an examination of sin and morality".** Joe Clay

Building Impossible with Daniel Ashville

National Geographic, 8pm

This new six-part series follows some of the most extraordinary and precarious builds, all involving hard work, cutting-edge science and technology and ingenuity. First is the Icon of the Seas, which will be the world's largest cruise liner. The British construction expert Daniel Ashville visits the Finnish shipyard where it is being built. There's a focus on its "Aqua-Dome", housing bars, restaurants and entertainment venues, its construction requiring an unprecedented feat of engineering. **JC**

Screw

Channel 4, 9pm

There's a thrilling high-stakes finale in store for the second series of Rob Williams's black comedy drama. Rose (Jamie-Lee O'Donnell) is reeling from Costa's confession and Morgan (Lee Ingleby) is pressuring her into spilling the beans. The prisons minister Anya Forsyth (Lolita Chakrabarti) is coming to Long Marsh, and Leigh (Nina Sosanya) initiates standard lockdown procedure. However, Forsyth insists that she sees "the reality of the wing", and with the identity of the undercover cop on the wing now circulating among the inmates, C Wing becomes a powder keg, and a deadly hostage situation unfolds. **JC**

The Lovers

Sky Atlantic/Now, 9pm

The unlikely romance between Johnny Flynn's pampered political broadcaster Seamus and Roisin Gallagher's foul-mouthed supermarket worker Janet continues to flourish. By text initially, with Seamus in London and Janet in Belfast, but they meet again when Seamus returns to Belfast to interview the foreign secretary (played by Sunetra Sarker). Banter abounds and sparks fly at the hotel bar, but where is the relationship going? The set-up could feel contrived, but tremendous performances by the two main actors, along with a first-rate script, makes this a believable and warm-hearted rom-com for our age. **JC**

The Royle Family: Down the Back of the Sofa

Gold, 9pm

To mark its 25th anniversary, the 2010 documentary celebrating this sitcom has been refreshed. It includes the only filmed interview of Craig Cash and Caroline Aherne together, their real-life double act as funny and warm as the lines they wrote. Aherne died in 2016, so this celebrates her legacy with new contributions from fans such as Diane Morgan and Rosie Jones, who vouch for the sitcom's "essence of truth", relatability and radical format of people sitting on a sofa watching telly. **JC**

Catch up

Murder Trial: The Disappearance of Renee and Andrew MacRae
BBC iPlayer



Moody shots of beautiful Scottish hillsides give way to the stiff formality of the Inverness High Court, where 80-year-old William MacDowell is on trial for killing his former lover and her young son in November 1976. Split into two parts, it is not the first murder trial filmed in the Scottish courts — the first aired in 2013 after the law changed — but the spectacle of real justice being enacted by real barristers and jurors continues to make for compelling viewing, as does the sight of the frail old man in the dock. Neither Andrew nor Renee MacRae, *left*, the wife of a wealthy building firm owner, has been seen since they disappeared. **Ben Dowell**

Regional programmes

Films of the day

Captain Phillips (12, 2013)
BBC1, 10.40pm

Tom Hanks and the director Paul Greengrass *(Bloody Sunday, United 93*, the Jason Bourne franchise) transform the real-life hijacking in 2009 of a container ship into pulse-quickening entertainment. With no plot as such, other than the initial cat-and-mouse game between the desperate Somali pirates and Hanks's cool-headed captain, the film becomes a playpen for Greengrass's intense brand of film-making adrenaline. Hanks is the casting coup here and anchors (forgive the pun) the film with the sense of a normal, modest everyman who is in over his head. The closing screen moment, after a bloody rescue, is one of the most hauntingly realistic depictions of trauma-induced shock to feature in a Hollywood production. (129min) **Wendy Ide**



The Rider (15, 2017)
Film4, 1.45am

Real-life drama is neatly subsumed into soft elegiac fiction in this western character study from the director Chloé Zhao. Set among a community of Lakota Sioux "cowboys" on the Pine Ridge Reservation of South Dakota, it follows the former rodeo star Brady Blackburn (played by the former rodeo star Brady Jandreau, *above*), who is recovering from a near-fatal head injury (as is Jandreau) received from a horse stamp. He must choose between a sedentary but safe life and the allure of galloping horses, the open range and the cowboy way. Jandreau is a charismatic draw, and the breathtaking cinematography from Joshua James Richards is comparable with classic Terrence Malick. (99min) **Kevin Maher**

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Thursday 14

BBC1

6.00am Breakfast **9.15** Morning Live **10.00** Critical Incident (r) **10.45** Expert Witness (r) **11.15** Homes Under the Hammer **12.15pm** Bargain Hunt (r) **1.00** BBC News at One; Weather **1.30** BBC Regional News; Weather **1.45** Doctors. Daniel has an encounter with the police **2.15** Money for Nothing. A canvas army bed, a metal gate and drain cover and a tulip table (r) **3.00** Escape to the Country. Nicki Chapman helps a couple in east Devon (r) **3.45** Garden Rescue. Charlie Dimmock and Flo Headlam create a safe garden for a visually impaired man **4.30** The Finish Line. Quiz, hosted by Roman Kemp and Sarah Greene **5.15** Pointless. Quiz, hosted by Alexander Armstrong and Konnie Huq **6.00** BBC News at Six; Weather **6.30** BBC Regional News; Weather



Sort Your Life Out (8pm)

7.00 The One Show Live magazine show, presented by Alex Jones and Roman Kemp

7.30 EastEnders Sharon is intrigued after hearing about work opportunities in Abu Dhabi. Kat makes an announcement

8.00 Sort Your Life Out with Stacey Solomon Stacey Solomon and her crack team, plus special guest Mrs Hinch, help farmers Andy and Lianne and their three children transform their farmhouse through a life-changing declutter (2/5)

9.00 Ambulance Two North West Ambulance Service crewmates are called to an unresponsive patient. They arrive on scene to find blood on the door, so approach with caution

10.00 BBC News at Ten

10.30 BBC Regional News

10.40 FILM Captain Phillips (12, 2013) An American cargo ship sets a dangerous course around the coast of Somalia, while inland, four men are pressed into service as pirates by the local warlords. The captain is taken hostage when the raiding party hijacks the vessel, resulting in a tense five-day crisis. Fact-based thriller starring Tom Hanks and Barkhad Abdi. **See Film Choice**

12.45am Weather for the Week Ahead **12.50** BBC News. The day's headlines

BBC2

6.30am Money for Nothing (r) **7.15** Garden Rescue (r) **8.00** Sign Zone: Coastal Defenders (r) (SL) **9.00** Nicky Campbell **10.00** BBC News **12.15pm** Politics Live **1.00** Impossible (r) **1.45** Eggheads (r) **2.15** Murder, Mystery and My Family. Jeremy Dein and Sasha Wass examine a drowning case from 1927 (r) **3.00** The Wonder of Animals (r) **3.30** Great British Railway Journeys. Piccadilly Circus to Gravesend (r) **4.00** Who Do You Think You Are? Pixie Lott explores her ancestry (r) **5.00** Flog It! (r) **6.00** Richard Osman's House of Games. Babatunde Aleshe, Richie Anderson, Jo Caulfield and Carol Smillie take part (r) **6.30** Marcus Wareing's Tales from a Kitchen Garden. The chef heads over to Mersea Island in Essex to go fishing for crabs



The chef Tom Kerridge (8pm)

7.00 The Warship: Tour of Duty The story of Royal Navy aircraft carrier *HMS Queen Elizabeth's* first operational mission, following it on a gruelling seven-month voyage to the South China Sea (1/6) (r)

8.00 The Hidden World of Hospitality with Tom Kerridge The chef goes behind the scenes at two restaurants looking to expand their businesses. They include Harvest, a fusion restaurant next to Windsor Castle (7/8)

9.00 Helping Our Teens Marie continues to help staff and pupils at Beacon Hill Academy, West Midlands. She meets Jayliyah, a year 10 pupil who's been clashing over the school's behaviour policy and is at risk of permanent exclusion (2/2)

10.00 Mortimer & Whitehouse: Gone Fishing Paul and Bob head to a secluded pike lake (2/6) (r)

10.30 Newsnight Analysis of the day's events with Kirsty Wark

11.15 Women's ODI Cricket England v Sri Lanka. Action from the third and final match of the series

11.45 Ultimate Wedding Planner The final two planners face the ultimate challenge (6/6) (r)

12.45am Coastal Defenders. The dive team repair a mooring structure on the Isle of Wight ferries (r) **1.45** Sign Zone: Clean It, Fix It. The team transform Rory and Holly's new home (r) (SL) **2.30-3.30** Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby (r) (SL)

ITV1

6.00am Good Morning Britain **9.00** Lorraine **10.00** This Morning **12.30pm** Loose Women and Men **1.30** ITV News; Weather **1.55** Regional News; Weather **2.00** James Martin's Spanish Adventure. The chef is introduced to carcamusa in Castilla-La Mancha, tries local marzipan, meets an organic honey producer and sees how manchego is made **3.00** Tenable. A team of five answers questions about top 10 lists, then tries to score a perfect 10 in the final round. Warwick Davis hosts **4.00** Tipping Point. Ben Shephard hosts the arcade-themed quiz in which contestants drop tokens down a choice of four chutes in the hope of winning a £10,000 jackpot **5.00** The Chase. Quiz show hosted by Bradley Walsh **6.00** Regional News; Weather **6.30** ITV News; Weather



Host Paul O'Grady (8.30pm)

7.30 Emmerdale Cathy takes her anger out on her family, Bob feels a twinge in his chest, and Chloe is thrilled when Mack suggests going on a date

8.30 Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs The presenter meets two dogs that have already been returned to Battersea (6/8) (r)

9.00 My Mum, Your Dad With more parents now in the retreat, the kids get another opportunity to pair them up for dates. Sparks fly between one of the couples with one person becoming emotional when she sees a different side to her mum (4/10)

10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather

10.30 Regional News

10.45 Secrets of the Krays Documentary exploring the rise, reign and fall of Britain's most notorious gangsters, the Krays, beginning with their ascent to power and influences that shaped them (1/3) (r)

11.40 My Mum, Your Dad Sparks fly between one of the couples. Davina McCall hosts (4/10) (r)

12.30am All Elite Wrestling: Rampage. Hard-hitting action **1.25** The Chase. Quiz show hosted by Bradley Walsh (r) **2.15** Loose Women and Men (r) **3.00** Tenable. Warwick Davies hosts (r) (SL) **3.55** Unwind with ITV **5.05** Oti Mabuse's Breakfast Show (r) (SL)

Channel 4

6.05am Countdown (r) **6.45** Cheers (r) **7.10** Cheers (r) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond (r) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond (r) **8.25** Frasier (r) **8.55** Frasier (r) **9.25** Frasier (r) **9.55** Château DIY (r) **10.55** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces (r) **11.55** Channel 4 News Summary **12.00** Steph's Packed Lunch **2.10pm** Countdown. With Justin Moorhouse in Dictionary Corner **3.00** A Place in the Sun. Jasmine Harman goes house-hunting around the coastal town of Corralejo (r) **4.00** A Place in the Sun. A hunt for a holiday home on the Greek island of Crete **5.00** Four in a Bed. The final visit is to The Antelope Inn, in Upavon, Wiltshire (r) **5.30** Come Dine with Me (r) **6.00** The Simpsons. Homer becomes a hippie (r) **6.30** Hollyoaks. Joel opens up to Leela (r)



The drama Area 51 (2.40am)

7.00 Channel 4 News Including sport and weather

8.00 Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It Kirstie Allsopp and Phil Spencer help a couple from Newtownards, Northern Ireland decide whether to move or renovate their five-bedroom chalet bungalow (r)

9.00 Screw C Wing's future hangs in the balance as the prisons minister visits and Leigh tries to keep a lid on things after the discovery of the undercover police officer. Last in the series. **See Viewing Guide**

10.00 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown Jimmy Carr hosts a combination of the comedy panel show and the words-and-numbers quiz, with Jon Richardson and Lucy Beaumont taking on Joe Wilkinson and Richard Ayoade (1/6) (r)

11.05 Top Guns: Inside the RAF Young pilot Buzz encounters a Russian aircraft over Syria when his wingman suffers a cockpit emergency. While, in Estonia, another broken jet risks leaving NATO's frontline undefended against the Russians (4/6) (r)

12.05am First Dates (r) (SL) **1.00** Adam Hills: Grow Another Foot (r) (SL) **1.50** Ramsay's 24 Hours to Hell and Back (r) (SL) **2.40 FILM Area 51 (15, 2015)** (SL) **4.15** Undercover Boss USA (r) **5.05** Kirstie's House of Craft (r) **5.15** Couples Come Dine with Me (r)

Channel 5

6.00am Milkshake! **9.15** Jeremy Vine. The broadcaster discusses the issues of the day **11.15** Storm Huntley. Debate on the day's talking points continues **12.40pm** Alexis Conran. The important stories of the day **1.40** 5 News at Lunchtime **1.45** Home and Away. Felicity comes face to face with her attacker (r) **2.15 FILM Revenge for My Mother (PG, TVM, 2022)** When her recently hired assistant secretly starts exacting revenge, the perfect world of a woman who teaches post-natal fitness is shattered. Thriller starring Sami Nye **4.00** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun. A woman prepares to trial a new menu at her Costa Del Sol restaurant **5.00** 5 News at 5 **6.00** Susan Calman's Grand Day Out. The presenter explores the county of Kent (r) **6.55** 5 News Update



The Puzzling final (8pm)

7.00 Escaping Death Valley with Nick Knowles Nick hears how the valley got its name and visits a ghost town, before ending his trip at the Amargosa Opera House (2/2) (r)

7.55 5 News Update

8.00 Puzzling with Lucy Worsley: The Final It is the grand final and the contestants take on five rounds of fiendish challenges as they attempt to become the ultimate puzzler. Last in the series (13/13); followed by 5 News Update

9.00 The Royal Borough: Kensington & Chelsea Nick Austin shows viewers around beautiful barge *Monty*, the floating property that once hosted Prince Philip. There is also a look at Holland Park's horticultural history (4/4)

10.00 A&E After Dark Documentary going behind the scenes at Hull Royal Infirmary. A young man is brought in with life-threatening stab wounds, while a patient in a gown thinks it would be a good idea to steal an ambulance (2/10) (r)

11.05 Skin A&E A man has a lump the size of a golf ball removed from his neck, Dr Emma tackles a huge lipoma, and an operation to remove a cyst uncovers something else hidden underneath (4/10) (r)

12.05am Police Interceptors (r) **1.00** Casino Show **3.00** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun (r) **3.50** Get Your Tatts Out (r) (SL) **4.40** Nick's Quest (r) (SL) **5.05** House Doctor (r) (SL) **5.30** Entertainment News on 5 **5.35** Milkshake! (r) (SL) **5.45** Paw Patrol (r)

Thursday 14 | Primetime digital guide



Dunkirk
James D'Arcy and Kenneth Branagh in Christopher Nolan's 2017 war drama
BBC4, 9pm

FV Freeview **FS** Freesat

TalkTV
FV 237, FS 217, SKY 522, VIRGIN 606

6.00am James Max Updates
6.30 The Julia Hartley-Brewer Breakfast Show Discussion
9.30 Mike and Kev Mike Graham and Kevin O'Sullivan give their take on the latest news
10.00 The Independent Republic of Mike Graham
1.00pm Ian Collins Hard-hitting monologues and debates
3.00 Kevin O'Sullivan The host tackles the day's big stories
5.00 Vanessa Feltz Big names and exclusive interviews and viewers' thoughts
7.00 Jeremy Kyle Live The host takes on important issues
8.00 Piers Morgan Uncensored The host presents his verdict on global events
9.00 The Talk A panel of famous faces debate the hot topics everybody's talking about
10.00 First Edition A look at tomorrow's newspapers
11.00-12.00m't Piers Morgan Uncensored Debates

BBC3
FV 23, FS 179, SKY 115, VIRGIN 107

7.00pm Frozen Planet (2/7)
8.00 Top Gear America The trio try to rekindle America's love for the station wagon. Plus, in Montana, Dax tests a McLaren 765LT (8/10)
8.35 Ghosts US Stephanie awakens to find that her crush is now dating Hetty
8.55 The Catch Up A round-up of the day's news
9.00 FILM Dunkirk (12, 2017) Allied soldiers surrounded by the German army wait for evacuation during the Second World War. Christopher Nolan's drama starring Kenneth Branagh, Tom Hardy, Mark Rylance and Fionn Whitehead
10.40 Bad Education Double bill of the comedy set in a dysfunctional school
11.40-12.40am Stranger in My Family Documentary following a man's search for his biological father

BBC4
FV 9/24, FS 173, SKY 116, VIRGIN 108

7.00pm Great Coastal Railway Journeys Michael Portillo begin a trip along the south coast of Wales
7.30 Climbing Great Buildings Jonathan Foyle and Lucy Creamer explore Blenheim Palace in Oxfordshire (8/15)
8.00 How the Celts Saved Britain Conclusion. Tracing the footsteps of Ireland's earliest missionaries (2/2)
9.00 FILM What Ever Happened to Baby Jane? (12, 1962) An embittered former child star keeps her wheelchair-bound sister a prisoner in their home, carrying out a campaign of sadistic abuse. Drama starring Bette Davis
11.10 Bette & Joan: Talking Pictures A dual profile of feuding superstars Bette Davis and Joan Crawford
11.40-1.35am FILM Balloon (12, 2018) Drama starring Friedrich Mucke

More 4
FV 18, FS 124, SKY 136, VIRGIN 147

6.55pm The Dog House A lonesome teenager seeks a canine companion to replace her twin sister, who's leaving her to start a university course (7/9)
7.55 Grand Designs Kevin McCloud follows a project to transform a classic 1920s cinema in South Yorkshire into a family home, complete with a hydraulic glass wall that opens up one side of the house
9.00 My Floating Home A young couple who have purchased a 35-year-old narrowboat
10.00 Grand Designs Australia A man wants to build the ultimate underground Greek mansion
11.05-12.10am 24 Hours in A&E An 85-year-old man is brought to St George's with a swollen hand after cutting his finger on some wire two weeks earlier (5/13)

Sky Atlantic
SKY 108

6.45pm Ray Donovan The appearance of a former member of Sully's gang spells trouble for Ray and Cochran. Elsewhere, Bunchy encounters a potential love interest at his new place of work (4/12) (R)
7.55 Game of Thrones Tyrion enlists an unlikely ally and Jon's warnings about the Wall's vulnerability fall on deaf ears (7/10) (R)
9.00 The Lovers Janet suggests that she and Seamus should have an affair. **See Viewing Guide** (2/6) (R)
9.35 Dreamland Trish and Spencer take Cheryl and Leila to see the derelict house they want (2/6) (R)
10.05 Winning Time: The Rise of the Lakers Dynasty Drama starring John Reilly (6/7) (R)
11.10-12.20am Billions The time comes for Chuck to step into a new role (4/12) (R)

Sky Documentaries
SKY 121, VIRGIN 188

6.55pm The Vietnam War South Vietnamese forces fighting on their own in Laos suffer a terrible defeat, while a re-elected President Nixon announces Hanoi has agreed to a peace deal (9/10) (R)
8.00 100 Foot Wave Confronted with unfavourable conditions in Nazaré, Justine turns to the Pacific to face her fears (3/6) (R)
9.00 Music Box Documentaries exploring pivotal moments in music, starting with Alanis Morissette's beginnings as a pop star and her rise to the top of the male-dominated industry (2/6) (R)
11.00 Liverpool Narcos By the 1990s a cocaine boom had really taken off — and the deadliest chapter in Liverpool's drugs war had begun (3/3) (R)
12.00-2.00am Forced Out (R)

ITV2
FV 6, FS 113, SKY 118, VIRGIN 115

7.00pm Family Fortunes Game show hosted by Gino D'Acampo
8.00 Superstore Amy and Dina have to visit Cloud 9 corporate
8.30 Superstore Corporate tries to win over employees, causing problems between Amy and Jonah
9.00 Family Guy
9.30 Family Guy
10.00 Family Guy
10.30 Family Guy
11.00 Family Guy
11.30 American Dad!
12.00-12.30am American Dad!

ITV3
FV 10, FS 115, SKY 119, VIRGIN 117

6.55pm Heartbeat Paul Nicholas guest stars as a Swedish sailor who may not be telling the truth about the contents of the coffin he's escorting home. A trio of young joyriders steal Carol's car
8.00 Vera The detective investigates when a seemingly beloved resident of a coastal community is driven off the road
10.00-12.05am Agatha Christie's Marple Miss Marple is presented with a mystery when the reading of a will leads to murder (1/4)

ITV4
FV 26, FS 117, SKY 120, VIRGIN 118

6.10pm Unforgettable World Cups Memorable moments from the Rugby World Cup since 1987
7.15 Live Rugby World Cup 2023: France v Uruguay (Kick-off **8.00**) All the action from the match at Stade Pierre-Mauroy in Lille. The hosts got their campaign under way against New Zealand on Friday, and following that test they will now expect a routine victory
10.30-12.55am FILM Hellboy (12, 2004) Comic-book action fantasy starring Ron Perlman

E4
FV 13, FS 122, SKY 135, VIRGIN 106

7.00pm Hollyoaks Donna-Marie finds herself struggling
7.30 Young Sheldon Paige and Sheldon get into trouble at the science museum
8.00 First Dates Ireland A professional croupier, a nurse, a tattooed bad boy and a history teacher look for love (3/14)
9.00 Celebs Go Dating: The Finale Chloe must decide between two men. Last in the series
10.00 Gogglebox From 2022
11.05-12.05am First Dates

Dave
FV 19, FS 157, SKY 111, VIRGIN 127

7.00pm Richard Osman's House of Games With Lucy Beaumont, Joe Thomas and Jake Wood
7.40 Richard Osman's House of Games With Shappi Khorsandi
8.20 Would I Lie to You?
9.00 QI XL With Sara Pascoe, Jack Whitehall and Adam Hills
10.00 Two Pints of Lager and a Packet of Crisps
10.40 Two Pints of Lager and a Packet of Crisps
11.20 Gavin & Stacey
12.00-12.35am Gavin & Stacey

Drama
FV 20, FS 158, SKY 143, VIRGIN 116

6.40pm Last of the Summer Wine Compo speculates as to how the body circulates blood
7.20 Last of the Summer Wine
8.00 Shakespeare & Hathaway: Private Investigators Frank and Lu must track down a vital witness in a crown court trial
9.00 Shakespeare & Hathaway: Private Investigators Frank and Lu must clear their names when they are framed for various crimes
10.00 New Tricks Drama
11.20-1.30am Silent Witness

Yesterday
FV 27, FS 159, SKY 155, VIRGIN 129

7.00pm Bangers & Cash Dave's son Jack heads to Cheshire to collect two cars with a 35-five-year age difference (10/10)
8.00 Bangers & Cash Derek brings a small army of military hardware to Thornton le Dale (5/13)
9.00 Bangers & Cash: Restoring Classics A 1950's Austin (6/6)
10.00 Bangers & Cash: Restoring Classics A 1969 MGB (5/6)
11.00 Abandoned Engineering
12.00-12.30am Great British Railway Journeys Travel show

PBS America
FV 84, FS 155, SKY 174, VIRGIN 187

6.15pm The War (3/14)
7.20 Elmore Leonard: But Don't Try to Write An exploration into the legacy and works of crime novelist Elmore Leonard
8.30 Hitler's Slaves: Forced Labour Under the Nazis (3/3)
9.35 Taken Hostage How Iranian students held 52 hostages at the American embassy
10.50 Elmore Leonard: But Don't Try to Write Documentary
12.00-1.15am Hitler's Slaves: Forced Labour Under the Nazis

Sky Arts
FV 11, FS 147, SKY 130, VIRGIN 140

7.00pm The Joy of Painting A breathtaking seascape (10/13)
7.30 The Joy of Painting A towering, snowy mountain looming over a cabin (11/13)
8.00 Classic Movies: The Story of Brighton Rock A look at John Boulting's 1944 film noir. **See Viewing Guide**
9.00 Mildred Pierce New series. Repeat of the 2011 drama starring Kate Winslet and Guy Pearce (1/5)
10.15 The Directors Clint Eastwood
11.15-12.15am The Seventies (4/8)

Sky History
SKY 123, VIRGIN 131

7.00pm Forged in Fire
8.00 Pawn Stars A collection of Jurassic Park toys comes into the shop, but they might not be as prized as Chumlee thinks
9.00 Secret Restoration A look back on the best of season one
10.00 Alone As the participants finally get into a rhythm, loneliness begins to settle in for the survivalists, and one small choice proves to be disastrous
11.00 Secrets in the Ice (6/6)
12.00-1.00am Pawn Stars

Sky Max
SKY 113, VIRGIN 111

7.00pm Stargate Atlantis Malcolm Tunney unveils a device to remove the threat of global warming
8.00 A League of Their Own: US Road Trip 2.0 Highlights from the gang's second adventure including a monster truck competition (7/7)
9.00 The Blacklist Dembe reflects on his complicated past when he receives a concerning call
10.00 Never Mind the Buzzcocks
10.45 Warrior Mai Ling mingles with a new crowd (2/10)
11.55-1.00am The Force

Nat Geographic
SKY 129, VIRGIN 183, BT 351

7.00pm Air Crash Investigation
8.00 Building Impossible with Daniel Ashville New series. A new feature for the world's largest cruise ship. **See Viewing Guide**
9.00 Wicked Tuna On *Hard Merchandise*, Dave Marciano faces the devastating loss of his father
10.00 First Alaskans Chris and Nalu take to the seas, and Marvin fixes his father's grave (8/13)
11.00 Air Crash Investigation
12.00-1.00am Banged Up Abroad Travelling nightmares (5/10)

Discovery
SKY 125, VIRGIN 177

7.00pm Wheeler Dealers
8.00 Outback Truckers
9.00 Naked and Afraid: Last One Standing In the first challenge, a cold-blooded move creates conflict
11.00 Maritime Masters: Expedition Antarctica
12.00-1.00am How the Universe Works The science of astronomy

Sky Comedy
SKY 114, VIRGIN 112, BT 346

7.00pm Will & Grace
7.30 Mr Mayor (2/10)
8.00 The Office (US)
8.30 The Office (US)
9.30 Breeders (2/10)
10.00 Sex and the City
10.40 Sex and the City
11.20 Hung (4/10)
11.55-12.30am Hung (5/10)

Comedy Central
SKY 112, VIRGIN 132, BT 344

6.50pm Friends
7.25 Friends
7.55 Friends
8.30 Friends
9.00 FILM Police Academy (15, 1984) Starring Steve Guttenberg
11.00 Jimmy Carr: Live
12.00-1.00am Rhod Gilbert's Growing Pains With Jack Dee

Gold
SKY 110, VIRGIN 124, BT 343

7.00pm The Thin Blue Line
7.40 Dad's Army
8.20 Dad's Army
9.00 The Royle Family: Down the Back of the Sofa A refreshed 2010 documentary about the sitcom. **See Viewing Guide**
11.00 The Royle Family
11.40-12.20am The Fast Show

W
FV 25, FS 156, SKY 132, VIRGIN 125

7.00pm MasterChef Australia It's Curtis's Condiment Cook-off
8.10 Nurses on the Ward
9.10 Alex Jones: Making Babies
10.10 Gemma and Gorka: Life behind the Lens It's Gemma's baby shower, and Gorka appears on Steph's Packed Lunch
11.10-12.10am Nurses on the Ward

Alibi
SKY 109, VIRGIN 114

7.00pm Elementary Holmes investigates a Wall Street banker's heroin overdose
8.00 Death in Paradise A prisoner is killed while in custody (8/8)
9.00 Death in Paradise (1/8)
10.00 So Help Me Todd
11.00 Person of Interest
12.00-1.00am Elementary

Sky Main Event
SKY 401, VIRGIN 511, BT 440

8.30am Live DP World Tour Golf The BMW PGA Championship
6.00pm Live Women's International One-Day Cricket: England Women v Sri Lanka Women Coverage of the third one-day international in the three-match series from Uptonsteel County Ground
8.30 Live PGA Tour Golf The Fortinet Championship
12.00-4.30am Live NFL: Philadelphia Eagles v Minnesota Vikings (Kick-off **1.15**)

Sky Premier League
SKY 402, VIRGIN 512

7.00pm Premier League: The Big Interview An interview with a Premier League star
7.30 Premier League Stories Behind the scenes of the league
8.00 Gary Neville's Soccerbox The presenter talks to Thierry Henry
8.30 Gary Neville's Soccerbox
9.00 Premier League: The Big Interview An interview with a Premier League star
9.30 Premier League Stories
10.00 Premier League Icons
10.30-12.30am PL Retro



Kate Winslet and Guy Pearce star in the 2011 drama Mildred Pierce (Sky Arts, 9pm)

Sky Cricket
SKY 404, VIRGIN 514

12.00 Live Women's International One-Day Cricket: England Women v Sri Lanka Women Coverage of the third one-day international in the three-match series which is staged at the Uptonsteel County Ground, Grace Road in Leicester
8.30pm One-Day International Cricket England v New Zealand
9.30 Hero Of Headingley
10.00 Women's International One-Day Cricket
11.00-12.00m't One-Day International Cricket

TNT Sports 1
SKY 410, VIRGIN 527, BT 430

10.15am Live Asia Cup Cricket Coverage of a match from Super Four stage of the competition
7.00pm Live MLB: Milwaukee Brewers v Miami Marlins (Start-time **7.10**) Coverage of the National League match from American Family Field
10.30 MLB Plays of the Week
11.00 MLB: Off The Bat All the latest action from Major League Baseball wrapped up
11.30-3.00am Live MLB Coverage of a Major League Baseball match

TNT Sports 2
SKY 411, VIRGIN 528, BT 431

12.30pm Live PSA Squash Coverage of the women's and men's semi-finals of the Q-Terminals Qatar Classic
6.30 WWE Monday Night Raw
9.00 WWE NXT Highlights
10.00 Premier League: The Big Interview With a PL star
10.30 Premier League Stories
11.00 CPL Guyana v Jamaica
11.30-3.45am Live Hero CPL: Guyana Amazon Warriors v Saint Lucia Kings Coverage of the T20 match at Providence Stadium

Thursday 14

Film guide

Film4
FV 14 FS 300 SKY 313

11.00am Operation Petticoat (U, 1959) Second World War comedy starring Cary Grant, Tony Curtis and Joan O'Brien
1.25pm The Sons of Katie Elder (U, 1965) Western with John Wayne and Dean Martin
3.55 Ice Cold in Alex (PG, 1958) Second World War drama with John Mills, Sylvia Syms and Anthony Quayle
6.35 Gods of Egypt (12, 2016) An ancient Egyptian god seeks the aid of a thief in reclaiming his father's throne from his brother. Adventure with Nikolaj Coster-Waldau and Brenton Thwaites
9.00 White House Down (12, 2013) A policeman on a tour of the White House has to save the president when terrorists seize control of the building. Action thriller starring Channing Tatum
11.40 The Last Stand (15, 2013) The sheriff of a small town on the Mexican border tries to stop a drug lord from fleeing the US. Action thriller with Arnold Schwarzenegger
1.45-3.55am The Rider (15, 2017) A young cowboy undertakes a search for new identity and what it means to be a man in America. Western drama with Brady Jandreau and Mooney. **See Film Choice**

Talking Pictures TV
FV 82 FS 306 SKY 328 VIRGIN 445

6.00am The Larkins
6.35 And the Same to You (PG, 1960) Comedy with Brian Rix and William Hartnell
8.00 The Voice Within (PG, 1946) Drama starring Kieron Moore and Barbara White
9.00 Black Saddle
9.30 The Voice of Merrill (PG, 1952) Murder mystery with James Robertson Justice and Edward Underdown
11.10 Just for You (U, 1964) Musical starring DC LaRue and Katherine Quint
12.30pm Serious Charge (PG, 1959) A small-town troublemaker accuses a priest of making homosexual advances. Drama starring Anthony Quayle, Cliff Richard and Sarah Churchill
2.30 Crown Court
3.00 The Iron Maiden (U, 1962) An aircraft designer's passion for traction engines almost ruins his business. Comedy starring Michael Craig and Joan Sims
5.00 Elmer Gantry (PG, 1960) A conman disguises himself as a preacher to get closer to an evangelist, and they set off across the American Midwest. Drama starring Burt Lancaster and Jean Simmons
8.00 The Saint
9.00 Rumpole of the Bailey
10.05-11.55pm Noble House Mini-series starring Pierce Brosnan and Denholm Elliott



Comedy The Iron Maiden (Talking Pictures TV, 3pm)

GREAT! Movies
FV 34 FS 302 SKY 321 VIRGIN 425

9.00am Twisted Sisters (PG, 2016) Thriller starring Sierra McCormick and Katie Sarife
10.50 GREAT! Movie News
11.00 Lost Letter Mysteries: The Impossible Dream (PG, 2015) Drama starring Eric Mabius and Kristin Booth
12.50pm GREAT! Movie News
1.00 My Terrorized Teen (PG, 2021) Thriller starring Aria Sirvaitis and Liz Fenning
2.50 GREAT! Movie News
3.00 Dead Over Heels: An Aurora Teagarden Mystery (PG, 2016) Mystery starring Candace Cameron Bure
4.40 How Do You Know (12, 2010) Romantic comedy with Reese Witherspoon
6.55 The Way Way Back (12, 2013) A teenager starts to assert his independence when he befriends a water park employee during a family holiday. Comedy drama starring Liam James
9.00 Fifty Shades Freed (18, 2018) Tycoon Christian Grey and new wife Anastasia find their happiness endangered by her former boss. Romantic thriller starring Dakota Johnson and Jamie Dornan
11.10-1.00am Bronson (18, 2008) Biopic with Tom Hardy

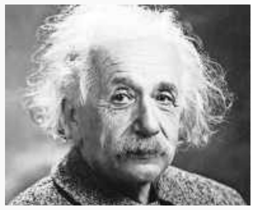
Sky Cinema Premiere
SKY 301 VIRGIN 401

12.25pm Agent Game (15, 2022) Thriller starring Dermot Mulroney and Jason Isaacs
2.10 Something in the Dirt (15, 2022) Comedy drama starring Aaron Moorhead
4.20 80 for Brady (12, 2023) Comedy starring Lily Tomlin
6.15 Agent Game (15, 2022) A CIA officer becomes a target after being made a scapegoat for the death of an interrogation subject. Thriller starring Dermot Mulroney
8.00 Something in the Dirt (15, 2022) Two neighbours witness supernatural events in their apartment building and decide to film the phenomena. Comedy drama starring Aaron Moorhead
10.00-12.15am Scream VI (18, 2023) Horror sequel starring Courteney Cox

Radio guide

Today's pick

In Our Time
Radio 4, 9am
The start of a new series of this programme, which on September 21 airs its 1,000th episode. What an achievement for this unashamedly eclectic, serious and illuminating series — to many minds the best thing on Radio 4 by miles. One of its joys is that any subject under the sun may be selected. What you can be sure about is that it will have its leading experts (as long as they teach the subject) and the mantra "never knowingly relevant". It's rarely less than aural gold. Today, Melvyn Bragg and guests look at the life and work of the physicist Albert Einstein, *above*. Ben Dowell



Friday 15 | Viewing guide

Critic's choice
Coco Chanel Unbuttoned

BBC2, 9pm

"I was a rebellious child, a rebellious lover, a rebellious fashion designer. A true Lucifer." The words of Gabrielle "Coco" Chanel — ones we hear at the start of this rich, in-depth *Arena* film taking us through her life from the late 19th century to her death in 1971. Chanel, *right*, transformed women's fashion, and her influence still carries. The role of women, sex and power was spotlighted by her designs, and she created a whole new way of dressing. However, areas of her life remain steeped in mystery. Born into a rural peasant background in 1883 and brought up in an orphanage run by nuns, Chanel became one of the wealthiest women of her age through grit, graft and talent. In 2020s parlance you could call her the first influencer, and she defied convention in her wardrobe and personal life. The documentary weaves together the story of Chanel's creations, from the little black dress to the tweed suit and the chain handbag. If you are not fashion-minded you will still enjoy learning about the more tumultuous areas of her life. There were, for example, her affairs in her twenties with the French cavalry officer and textile heir Etienne Balsan, then his friend Captain Arthur "Boy" Capel, who financed her first shop in Paris (as she would later say, "Two gentlemen were outbidding for my hot little body"). Fascinatingly, the film also later looks at her involvement as a Nazi spy. Her life was a fairytale, as one contributor puts it, but: "There is a darkness at the heart of all great fairytales." It's quite a rags-to-riches tale. James Jackson



Wilderness
Prime Video

Sporting a semi-Welsh accent, Jenna Coleman is the star draw of this sleek new infidelity-revenge drama. She's a young woman who has recently moved to New York with her successful hubby only to stumble upon his cheating ways. He is desperate to make amends and she agrees to a marriage-saving road trip of a lifetime taking in Yosemite National Park. But she knows that he really is a heel and she has an agenda: vengeance. After a slowish start it really gets going in the second episode — shades of early-1990s films such as *Kalifornia* as everything becomes a psychological game. **JJ**

Lang Lang Plays Disney
Disney+

Is Lang Lang turning into Liberace? Not quite, but this is certainly a lavish concert for the pianist — one in which he plays Disney soundtracks to a rapt audience; the Albert Hall being lit to make it feel as though we're in a kind of orchestral fairytale. "You have to touch people's hearts — no matter how old or how young — to get everyone to have their own 'young heart' moment." Guest stars add instrumental solos and vocals, and the Disney magic is often palpable. This is about inspiring young minds to the wonder of music (and of Disney, of course). **JJ**

The Lottery Millionaire and the Spirit of Belfast
BBC1, 7.30pm

What happens when you win a fortune on the lottery? In the case of the Belfast bus driver Peter Lavery, you go ahead and triple your money. This isn't about avarice, but a commendable sense of vision. Since he won £10.2million in 1996 Lavery has pursued several enterprises, but this edition of *Our Lives* follows his plan for a "floating" whiskey distillery and the launch of a new tour boat on the River Lagan. We also hear what it was like to become stinking rich overnight. **JJ**

Mrs Brown's Boys
BBC1, 9.30pm

The second episode of this cheerfully coarse mega-com begins with confusion about speed-dating. "With speed-dating you meet all sorts of people," Cathy tells her mum, Mrs Brown (did you know that Jennifer Gibney and Brendan O'Carroll, the actors playing these two characters, are married in real life?). "But it's really quick — as soon as you're finished with one person you rush to meet with someone else." Brown: "Like dogging, you mean? Er, so I believe… I read in a magazine somewhere!" If you don't mind bawdiness and a lot of fecks, Mrs Brown can't be accused of stinting on the gags. **JJ**

Films of the day

The Revenant (15, 2015)
Film4, 9pm

The Revenant is less a film and more an abattoir featuring an Oscar-winning performance by Leonardo DiCaprio, *below*. Alejandro González Iñárritu's frontier epic takes cinematic suffering to new levels. Over a 200-mile walk DiCaprio is attacked by almost everything — arrows, gunshots, frostbite, starvation, maggots, doubt and, of course, a grizzly bear. This is based on the real life of Hugh Glass, an explorer whose journey across South Dakota in 1823 begins as a quest for survival and becomes much more spiritual after he pulls himself back from the grave. DiCaprio gives his all in the performance — more animal than man; more wolf than *The Wolf of Wall Street*. He even chose to devour a raw slab of bison's liver despite being a vegetarian. (156min) **Kate Muir**



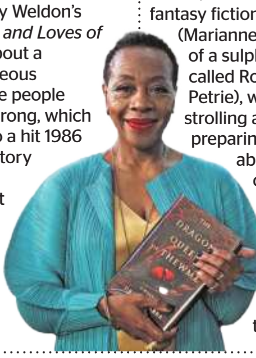
A Bigger Splash (15, 2015)
BBC1, 11.30pm

Luca Guadagnino's sly, funny follow-up to *I Am Love* feels like the greatest party to which you have yet been invited. Ralph Fiennes is a riot as Harry, a music industry kingpin and the former lover of Marianne (Tilda Swinton). She is a rock star whose holiday on a Sicilian island with her film-maker partner, Paul (Matthias Schoenaerts), is disrupted when Harry appears in their midst. Trailing behind him is sulky, sexy Penelope (Dakota Johnson), the daughter he has only recently discovered he has. "She seems shy, but underneath she's a lovely bitch like her mother," is Harry's effusive introduction. Guadagnino uses the bohemian backdrop of a holiday villa as a striking stage for the sexually charged tragicomedy that unfolds. (120min) **Wendy Ide**

Catch up

The Following Events Are Based on a Pack of Lies
BBC iPlayer

Remember Fay Weldon's novel *The Life and Loves of a She-Devil*, about a woman's righteous revenge on the people who did her wrong, which was made into a hit 1986 drama? That story of female empowerment has a lot in common with this five-parter from the scriptwriters (and sisters) Penelope and Ginny Skinner, which was commissioned in 2020, but delayed by Covid. It is essentially a fantasy tale about the women victims — undervalued everywoman Alice Newman (Rebekah Staton) and the widowed fantasy fiction author Cheryl (Marianne Jean-Baptiste) — of a sulphurous conman called Rob Chance (Alistair Petrie), whom we meet strolling around Oxford preparing to deliver a talk about climate change. His fourth wall-breaking addresses to camera add menace and mystery to an already bizarre tale. **Ben Dowell**



Regional programmes

- **BBC1 Wales As BBC1 except: 7.30-8.00pm** Kiri's TV Flashback. Kiri Pritchard-McLean salutes the unlikely heroes of Wales (r) **10.40** Rewind: 60 Years of Welsh Pop (r) **11.10** Starstruck (r) **11.30** Starstruck (r) **12.00midnight-2.00am FILM A Bigger Splash (2015)**
- **BBC1 N Ireland As BBC1 except: 7.30-8.00pm** The Long and The Short of It. The Act of Union of Britain and Ireland **9.00-9.30pm** The Lottery Millionaire and the Spirit of Belfast: Our Lives. The Belfast bus driver who won over £10million on the National Lottery in 1996
- **BBC2 N Ireland As BBC2 except: 7.30pm** Live Match of the Day Live from Northern Ireland: Larne v Linfield. Stephen Watson presents all the action from the NIFL Premiership encounter at Inver Park. Kick-off 7.45 **10.00-10.30** Mortimer & Whitehouse: Gone Fishing (r) **11.05** Coco Chanel Unbuttoned. Documentary examining the life of the iconic designer and her creations **12.35am** No Activity. The drugs bust finally gets underway. Last in the series (r) **1.00-1.25am** BBC News
- **BBC1 Scotland As BBC1 except: 11.15-12.15pm** Homes Under the Hammer. Properties in Newport, the West Midlands and Co Durham (r)
- **ITV1 Wales As ITV1 except: 7.00-7.30pm** Backstage
- **STV As ITV1 except: 7.00-7.30pm** What's on Scotland **10.30-10.45** STV News **3.50-5.05am** Night Vision
- **UTV As ITV1 except: 7.00-7.30pm** UTV Life. An eclectic mix of stories and guests
- **BBC Scotland 7.00pm** The Seven **7.30** Live Sportscene: Championship Live: Ayr United v Partick Thistle. Jonathan Sutherland presents all the action from the clash at Somerset Park. Kick-off 7.45. **10.00** Still Game. A TV crew visits the Clansman (r) **10.30** Limmy's Show (r) **11.00pm-Midnight** Scotland the Rave (r)
- **S4C 6.00am** Cyw (r) **12.00** News **12.05pm** Richard Holt: Yr Academi Felys (r) **12.30** Heno (r) **1.00** Dan Do (r) **1.30** Cymry ar Gynfas (r) **2.00** News **2.05** Prynhawn Da **3.00** News **3.05** Drych (r) **4.00** Awr Fawr (r) **5.00** Stwnsh **6.00** Bwyd Epic Chris (r) **6.30** Garddio a Mwy (r) **6.57** News S4C **7.00** Heno **7.30** News **8.00** Cwpan Rygbi'r Byd 2023. Sarra Elgan previews Wales v Portugal **8.55** News **9.00** Ironman Cymru 2023. Coverage of one of the main mass sporting events in Wales **10.00** Seiclo: Vuelta a España. Highlights of stage 19 **10.30-11.35** Jonathan (r)

(r) **repeat** (SL) **In-vision signing**

TV newsletter

Sign up to our TV bulletin offering the best TV and film tips, direct to your inbox every Friday. The newsletter covers the TV Editor's pick of box sets to stream, along with tips on the best programmes and films around. To start receiving it, digital subscribers can go to thetimes.co.uk/bulletins and tick the box next to "Television".

Friday 15

BBC1

6.00am Breakfast **9.15** Morning Live **10.00** Critical Incident (r) **10.45** Expert Witness (r) **11.15** Homes Under the Hammer (r) **12.15pm** Bargain Hunt **1.00** BBC News at One; Weather **1.30** BBC Regional News; Weather **1.45** Five Bedrooms. Ainsley is stunned to learn that her father has died suddenly **2.30** Money for Nothing. Transforming a sewing box and a dolls house (r) **3.00** Escape to the Country. A couple looking for a home in Shropshire (r) **3.45** Garden Rescue. Charlie Dimmock and Lee Burkhill create an Asian-inspired garden in Bolton **4.30** The Finish Line. Quiz, hosted by Roman Kemp and Sarah Greene **5.15** Pointless. Quiz, hosted by Alexander Armstrong (r) **6.00** BBC News at Six; Weather **6.30** BBC Regional News; Weather



Sitcom Mrs Brown's Boys (9.30pm)

7.00 The One Show Presented by Alex Jones and Roman Kemp

7.30 The Lottery Millionaire and the Spirit of Belfast: Our Lives The story of the Belfast bus driver who won the National Lottery in 1996. **See Viewing Guide**

8.00 Dragons' Den The Dragons face another selection of hopeful entrepreneurs. Including a dog-loving couple who try to collar some titan cash, while a man from Liverpool hopes he's found the formula for success with his disinfectant (r)

9.00 Would I Lie to You? With Gyles Brandreth, Sarah Millican and Lou Sanders (4/12) (r)

9.30 Mrs Brown's Boys Agnes volunteers at the salon and decides to try out speed-dating. **See Viewing Guide** (2/4)

10.00 BBC News at Ten

10.30 BBC Regional News

10.40 Starstruck Tom comes clean about a secret (5/6) (r)

11.00 Starstruck Kate goes into labour, and Ian is having a meltdown. Last in the series (r)

11.30 FILM **A Bigger Splash (15, 2015)** A rock star recovering from surgery finds her peaceful Mediterranean retreat disrupted by the arrival of a former lover. Drama starring Tilda Swinton and Ralph Fiennes. **See Film Choice**

1.30am Weather for the Week Ahead **1.35** BBC News. The day's headlines

BBC2

6.30am Escape to the Country (r) **7.15** Garden Rescue (r) **8.00** Sign Zone: Gardeners' World (r) (SL) **9.00** Nicky Campbell **10.00** BBC News **12.15pm** Politics UK **1.00** Impossible (r) **1.45** Eggheads (r) **2.15** Murder, Mystery and My Family. The case of a fatal shooting on a farm in Staffordshire in 1893 (r) **3.00** The Wonder of Animals (r) **3.30** Great British Railway Journeys. Warwick to Rye in East Sussex (r) **4.00** Who Do You Think You Are?. Shirley Ballas investigates a story about her great-grandmother (r) **5.00** Flog It! From Huddersfield Town Hall (r) **6.00** Richard Osman's House of Games. With Babatunde Aleshe and Richie Anderson (r) **6.30** Marcus Wareing's Tales from a Kitchen Garden. The chef decides to add 10 new piglets to his family of animals



Presenter Monty Don (8pm)

7.00 Villages by the Sea A visit to Staithes in Yorkshire (2/6) (r)

7.30 Beechgrove Garden Carole Baxter reviews how successful the pollinator-friendly plants project has been, while George Anderson tackles pruning (r)

8.00 Gardeners' World Monty Don considers a revamp of his Cottage Garden, and Adam Frost discovers an inspiring project in Manchester that is breathing new, green life into the city's industrial past

9.00 Coco Chanel Unbuttoned Documentary examining the life of the iconic designer and her creations, including the little black dress, the tweed suit, and the chain handbag. Coco Chanel's life was so extraordinary that it has long threatened to overshadow even her professional achievements. **See Viewing Guide**

10.30 Newsnight Headline analysis presented by Faisal Islam

11.05 No Activity The drugs bust finally gets underway (6/6) (r)

11.25 ODI Cricket Highlights Action from England v New Zealand

12.25am The Hidden World of Hospitality with Tom Kerridge (r) **1.25** Sign Zone: The Dark Side of Ballet Schools- Panorama. Current affairs report (r) (SL) **1.55** Couples Therapy (r) (SL) **2.25-3.25** Tommy Jessop Goes to Hollywood (r) (SL)

ITV1

6.00am Good Morning Britain **9.00** Lorraine **10.00** This Morning **12.30pm** Loose Women. Celebrity interviews and topical debate from a female perspective **1.30** ITV News; Weather **1.55** Regional News; Weather **2.00** James Martin's Spanish Adventure. The chef discovers how migas is made in Extremadura, meets an award-winning tortilla chef, and visits a local brewery **3.00** Tenable. Five friends from the Wirral get their chance to win a cash prize by answering a series of Top 10 list questions in the quiz show hosted by Warwick Davis **4.00** Tipping Point. Ben Shephard hosts the arcade-themed quiz series **5.00** The Chase. Quiz show hosted by Bradley Walsh **6.00** Regional News; Weather **6.30** ITV News; Weather



Quiz show Tipping Point (4pm)

7.30 Emmerdale David admits that his feelings for Victoria are burgeoning once again. Meanwhile, Jacob is not happy, and Cathy jumps to conclusions

8.00 Coronation Street Paul confronts Bernie about her fraud. Meanwhile, Stu gets a disappointing update on Eliza, Adam intervenes to help out Dee-Dee, and Aadi and Courtney are thrown together by pure circumstance

9.00 My Mum, Your Dad The parents prepare for a school disco-themed party which causes temperatures to rise. A new connection starts to form, leaving one grown-up kid disappointed for her mum. Davina McCall hosts (5/10)

10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather

10.30 Regional News

10.45 The NFL Show Craig Doyle is joined by Jason Bell and Osi Umenyiora to present highlights of the opening match of week two between Philadelphia Eagles and Minnesota Vikings

11.40 My Mum, Your Dad The parents prepare for a school disco-themed party (5/10) (r)

12.30am SailGP Highlights. Action from the third round of the international sailing competition, in Saint-Tropez, France **1.20** All Elite Wrestling: Collision (r) **3.00** Tenable (r) (SL) **3.50** Unwind with ITV **5.05** Katie Piper's Breakfast Show (r) (SL)

Channel 4

6.05am Countdown (r) **6.45** Cheers (r) **7.10** Cheers (r) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond (r) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond (r) **8.25** Frasier (r) **8.55** Frasier (r) **9.25** Frasier (r) **9.55** Château DIY (r) **10.55** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces (r) **11.55** Channel 4 News Summary **12.00** Steph's Packed Lunch **2.10pm** Countdown. Justin Moorhouse is in Dictionary Corner with Susie Dent **3.00** A Place in the Sun. A couple searching for a holiday home on Barbados (r) **4.00** A Place in the Sun. A Wiltshire couple seek a house in Spain's Valencia province **5.00** Four in a Bed. Payment day has arrived (r) **5.30** Come Dine with Me (r) **6.00** The Simpsons. Homer offers to donate a kidney to Grampa (r) **6.30** Hollyoaks. Donna-Marie finds herself struggling (r)



X-Men: Apocalypse (12.15am)

7.00 Channel 4 News Including sport and weather

8.00 PopMaster TV Ken Bruce presents the TV version of his long-running quiz, challenging fans from around the country to test their knowledge of the charts. It's the fourth heat, and more players compete for a place in the final (4/6) (r)

9.00 Gogglebox The armchair critics share their opinions on what they have been watching during the week, with cameras capturing their instant reactions and the lively discussions that are prompted by the week's biggest and best shows

10.00 Open House: The Great Sex Experiment Brendon and Priya want to explore Priya's bisexuality, but it remains to be seen whether her steamy hot tub and sensual time in the bedroom will hit the spot, while Chelsea and George disagree over Kiki and Sophia (6/8)

11.10 That's the Way, A-Ha, A-Ha, Joe Lycett A performance from the comedian's live show, recorded at the Duchess Theatre in London's West End. Joe tackles topics including getting into an argument with Isis (r)

12.15am FILM **X-Men: Apocalypse (12, 2016)** Superhero adventure sequel starring James McAvoy and Michael Fassbender **2.35** Ramsay's 24 Hours to Hell and Back (r) (SL) **3.25** Come Dine with Me (r) **5.30** Beat the Chef (r) **5.55** Find It, Fix It, Flog It (r)

Channel 5

6.00am Milkshake! **9.15** Jeremy Vine **11.15** Storm Huntley. Debate on the day's talking points continues **12.40pm** Alexis Conran. The important stories of the day **1.40** 5 News at Lunchtime **1.45** Home and Away. Cash's professionalism is put to the test (r) **2.15** FILM **Charming But Deadly (PG, TVM, 2021)** An entrepreneur lands a meeting with a prince about a large investment, but he is not who he appears to be. Drama starring Vivica A Fox and James Nitti **4.00** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun. There is love in the air at a speed-dating event **5.00** 5 News at 5 **6.00** Susan Calman's Grand Day Out. A trip to Devon, where the presenter investigates a part of the coastline known as the English Riviera (r) **6.55** 5 News Update



Jane McDonald in Japan (9pm)

7.00 Wetherspoons: How Do They Do It?! How the pub chain has gained ground by being cheaper, responsive, and some of the tactics used to keep customers coming back (r)

7.55 5 News Update

8.00 Puppy School for Guide Dogs Paralympic skiing hopeful and GCSE student Hester takes another major step on her journey to becoming one of the UK's youngest guide dog owners. She takes match Pickle on her first guided walk (3/4)

9.00 Jane McDonald: Lost in Japan In Osaka, the singer takes a food tour that includes the best katsu that the region has to offer. She also visits the downtown Dontonbori district. Last in the series

10.00 Britain's Favourite Ads of the 70s & 80s A celebration of most memorable, impressive, funny and sometimes shocking British TV adverts, with industry experts, stars of the ads, and social commentators discuss how they were made and their social context.. Featuring contributions by Jenny Eclair, Lorraine Chase, Jamie MacDonald, Hal Cruttenden, Darren Harriott and other familiar faces (r)

12.00 Yellowstone (r) (r) **1.40** PlayOJO Live Casino Show **3.40** Friends (r) **4.05** Friends (r) **4.30** Nick's Quest (r) (SL) **4.55** House Doctor (r) (SL) **5.20** Entertainment News on 5 **5.25** Milkshake! (r) (SL) **5.35** Paw Patrol (r) (SL) **5.45** Paw Patrol (r)

Friday 15 | Primetime digital guide



James Taylor
The American singer-songwriter filmed in concert in 1971
BBC4, 10pm

FV Freeview **FS** Freesat

TalkTV
FV 237, FS 217, SKY 522, VIRGIN 606

6.00am James Max Updates
6.30 Jeremy Kyle Debate
9.30 Mike and Kev Discussion
10.00 The Independent Republic of Mike Graham
1.00pm Ian Collins Hard-hitting monologues and debates
3.00 Kevin O'Sullivan The host tackles the day's big stories
5.00 Vanessa Feltz Big names and exclusive interviews
7.00 Plank of the Week Presented by Mike Graham
8.00 The World According to Mike Graham Taking a look into the week's stories
8.30 What Just Happened? with Kevin O'Sullivan
9.00 Piers Morgan Uncensored Best Of The week's events
10.00 Jeremy Kyle: Investigates A look at current issues
11.00 The World According to Mike Graham
11.30-12.00m't What Just Happened? with Kevin O'Sullivan Discussion

BBC3
FV 23, FS 179, SKY 115, VIRGIN 107

7.00pm FILM Wallace & Gromit in The Curse of the Were-Rabbit (U, 2005) Oscar-winning adventure, with the voices of Peter Sallis, Ralph Fiennes and Peter Kay
8.15 Wagspiracy: Vardy v Rooney The hidden working of the tabloids, PRs and agents relating to the trial
9.00 RuPaul's Drag Race Down Under The top three queens collaborate on a new remix of RuPaul's *Crying on the Dancefloor*, before RuPaul crowns Down Under's next drag superstar (8/8)
9.55 FILM The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert (15, 1994) Three drag queens set off across the Australian Outback for a gig in Alice Springs. Comedy starring Terence Stamp, Guy Pearce and Hugo Weaving
11.25-12.20am Wagspiracy: Vardy v Rooney Documentary

BBC4
FV 9/24, FS 173, SKY 116, VIRGIN 108

7.00pm Top of the Pops Ultimate Kaos, Sleeper, the Human League and Barry White
7.30 Top of the Pops Music from January 1995, featuring Deuce, Simple Minds, Green Day and the Wildhearts
8.00 Top of the Pops Performances by Tears for Fears, Sydney Youngblood and Tina Turner
8.30 Top of the Pops With Amii Stewart, Huey Lewis and the News and Maria Vidal
9.00 Paul McCartney in Concert The musician performs at the BBC's Maida Vale studios
10.00 James Taylor: In Concert A concert from 1971 by the American singer-songwriter
10.45 Jackson Browne: Old Grey Whistle Test The singer live at the BBC Television Theatre, London, in 1976
11.35-12.40am Gordon Lightfoot: In Concert A concert by the Canadian singer-songwriter

More 4
FV 18, FS 124, SKY 136, VIRGIN 147

6.55pm The Dog House Victoria Pendleton visits Woodgreen animal charity, keen to find a dog she can co-parent with her mother (8/9)
7.55 Grand Designs Kevin visits a house that resembles a giant snake, the curving, scaly structure spiralling over two levels and combining natural materials with modern technology
9.00 Rig 45: Murder at Sea When an alarm goes off it seems that the entire rig will explode within hours. Evidence is found pointing to Frank being responsible for the latest death. In English and Swedish (5/6)
10.00 24 Hours in A&E A tree surgeon who has fallen 40ft to the ground (6/13)
11.05-12.10am 24 Hours in A&E A 51-year-old man is airlifted in after falling 20ft from a ladder (7/13)

Sky Atlantic
SKY 108

6.45pm Ray Donovan Ray gets in touch with Volcheck about taking down Cochran, Mickey sets up a money making deal with a movie executive, and Bridget argues with Ray and Abby about Marvin (6/12) (R)
7.55 Game of Thrones Tyrion's fate is decided as his trial by combat arrives (8/10) (R)
9.00 Billions Axe turns to Chuck for a favour involving a common adversary, while Prince manoeuvres to raise his public profile. Chuck seeks counsel from an out-of-the-box business mind (6/12) (R)
10.10 True Detective Ray and Ani wonder if Caspar's demise is related to his fondness for prostitutes (2/8) (R)
11.20-12.20am Das Boot The U-949 is endangered by Commander Buchner's orders (3/10) (R)

Sky Documentaries
SKY 121, VIRGIN 188

6.55pm The Vietnam War The Watergate scandal forces President Nixon to resign, while North Vietnamese troops pour into the south and Saigon descends rapidly into chaos and collapses (10/10) (R)
8.00 100 Foot Wave As the first WSL contest of the season approaches, so does the birth of Garrett and Nicole's baby (4/6) (R)
9.00 Music Box The story of Woodstock 1999, a music festival promoted to echo unity but instead devolved into riots, lootings and sexual assaults (1/6) (R)
11.10-1.00am Never Surrender: A Galaxy Quest Documentary Shown as the film reached its 20th anniversary, cast and crew come together to celebrate, recall moments and discuss the social effects of *Galaxy Quest* (R)

ITV2
FV 6, FS 113, SKY 118, VIRGIN 115

7.00pm Family Fortunes Game show hosted by Gino D'Acampo
8.00 Superstore A robot co-worker is introduced to the store
8.30 Superstore Amy struggles to gather testimonies for Mateo
9.00 FILM Identity Thief (15, 2013) An executive goes in search of the con-woman living off his credit cards, planning to bring her to justice personally. Comedy starring Jason Bateman
11.15 Family Guy
11.45-12.15am Family Guy

ITV3
FV 10, FS 115, SKY 119, VIRGIN 117

5.45pm Live World Series of Darts Finals Jacqui Oatley presents coverage of day one from AFAS in Amsterdam, featuring eight matches in the competition won by Gerwyn Price here last year
10.00 Vera The detective investigates when a mother of two is found dead – but the case is made complex when the victim's family put in an appearance
12.00-1.05am Where the Heart Is Skelthwaite children succumb to a viral infection (14/16)

ITV4
FV 26, FS 117, SKY 120, VIRGIN 118

6.15pm BattleBots Witch Doctor tries to turn round its disastrous season in a match against Slammow, and Captain Shrederator is hoping to shred the powerful hammerbot Shatter
7.15 Live Rugby World Cup: New Zealand v Namibia (Kick-off **8.00**) All the action from both teams' second match in Pool A which is staged at Stadium de Toulouse
10.30-12.30am All Elite Wrestling: Dynamite Hard-hitting action from the world of All Elite Wrestling

E4
FV 13, FS 122, SKY 135, VIRGIN 106

7.00pm Hollyoaks Sienna does anything to get Earl Rafe to see her
7.30 Young Sheldon Meemaw and Sheldon become addicted to playing video games
8.00 First Dates Ireland Two elderly daters hope for a second chance at love (4/14)
9.00 FILM Mission: Impossible III (12, 2006) Action thriller sequel directed by JJ Abrams starring Tom Cruise, Philip Seymour Hoffman and Simon Pegg
11.30-12.35am Naked Attraction

Dave
FV 19, FS 157, SKY 111, VIRGIN 127

7.00pm Richard Osman's House of Games With Lucy Beaumont, Shazia Mirza and Joe Thomas
7.40 Richard Osman's House of Games With Shappi Khorsandi, Michael Buerk and Elis James
8.20 Would I Lie to You?
9.00 QI XL With David Mitchell, Ronni Ancona and Jimmy Carr
10.00 Have I Got a Bit More News for You Satirical quiz, with Ian Hislop and Paul Merton
11.00 Taskmaster Game show
12.00-12.40am Mock the Week

Drama
FV 20, FS 158, SKY 143, VIRGIN 116

6.40pm Last of the Summer Wine An afternoon in Wesley's car proves to be too hard on the feet
7.20 Last of the Summer Wine Clegg and Seymour visit Smiler in hospital following his operation
8.00 Father Brown Kembleford's new cricket captain is framed
9.00 Father Brown The suicide of a student leads Father Brown to believe a murderer is at work
10.00 New Tricks The team probes the mystery of a missing scientist
11.20-1.25am Silent Witness

Yesterday
FV 27, FS 159, SKY 155, VIRGIN 129

7.00pm Bangers & Cash A 1970 Excalibur Roadstar, once owned by Roy Orbison, arrives at Thornton-le-Dale (1/8)
8.00 Secrets of the London Underground Tim and Siddy explore the branch line between Holborn and Aldwych (1/6)
9.00 Bangers & Cash (5/13)
10.00 Bangers & Cash: Restoring Classics An Austin Montego (1/6)
11.00 Abandoned Engineering
12.00-12.30am Great British Railway Journeys Travel show

PBS America
FV 84, FS 155, SKY 174, VIRGIN 187

6.35pm The War The American airmen who took on daylight bombing missions (4/14)
7.40 Inside High Noon The story of the production of the 1952 landmark film *High Noon*
8.50 Kokoda: The Spirit Lives Patrick Lindsay delves into the Kokoda Campaign
10.50 Inside High Noon The story of the production of the 1952 landmark film *High Noon*
12.00-2.00am Kokoda: The Spirit Lives Documentary

Sky Arts
FV 11, FS 147, SKY 130, VIRGIN 140

7.00pm The Joy of Painting (12/13)
7.30 The Joy of Painting Bob creates an awe-inspiring summertime landscape (13/13)
8.00 Discovering: Diane Keaton A look at the life and career of the Academy Award-winning actress, who starred in *Annie Hall* (3/13)
9.00 The Who: Live at Hyde Park A 2015 performance by the veteran rock band as part of their 50th anniversary celebrations
11.20-12.40am Genesis: The Last Domino? The band's reunion tour

Sky History
SKY 123, VIRGIN 131

7.00pm Forged in Fire An episode focusing on judge James Neilson
8.00 Shipwrecks: When History Resurfaces The bay of Saint-Pierre in Martinique, which suffered a volcanic eruption in 1902
9.00 Anne Frank Remembered Part one. The story of the 15-year-old Holocaust victim, retold through archive film footage (1/2)
11.40-12.40am Robbie Coltrane's Critical Evidence The case of a man accused of sending a parcel bomb to a woman (3/8)

Sky Max
SKY 113, VIRGIN 111

7.00pm Stargate Atlantis Dr Keller is taken over by an alien consciousness named Neeva
8.00 Strike Back: Retribution Section 20 attempts to track down an ex-CIA contractor (7/10)
9.00 Rob & Romesh vs Golf Rob shares his newfound love of the sport with Romesh (2/7)
10.00 Warrior Strickland takes steps to secure Nellie's land (3/10)
11.05-1.05am FILM The Big Boss (18, 1971) Martial arts thriller starring Bruce Lee

Nat Geographic
SKY 129, VIRGIN 183, BT 351

7.00pm Air Crash Investigation Investigating the disappearance of EgyptAir flight 804
8.00 Airport Security: Rome Police seize cocaine sewn into a shirt and hidden in a shoe (2/8)
9.00 Air Crash Investigation A UK billionaire and his family die in an Australian seaplane crash
10.00 Inside Cocaine Wars A team of DEA agents attempts to catch an illegal submarine (3/4)
11.00 Air Crash Investigation
12.00-1.00am Banged Up Abroad

Discovery
SKY 125, VIRGIN 177

7.00pm Mighty Truckers
8.00 Gold Rush: Mine Rescue with Freddy & Juan Documentary
9.00 Expedition Bigfoot
10.00 Expedition X
11.00 Maritime Masters: Expedition Antarctica
12.00-1.00am How the Universe Works The science of astronomy

Sky Comedy
SKY 114, VIRGIN 112, BT 346

7.00pm Will & Grace
7.30 Mr Mayor (3/10)
8.00 The Office (US)
8.30 The Office (US)
9.00 Sex and the City
9.40 Sex and the City
10.15 Divorce (1/6)
10.55 Divorce (2/6)
11.30-12.35am Tig Notaro: Drawn

Comedy Central
SKY 112, VIRGIN 132, BT 344

6.45pm Friends Four episodes
9.00 Kevin Bridges in Glasgow
10.00 Zach Galifianakis: Comedy Central Live Stand-up performance
10.30 Kevin Hart: Comedy Central Live Stand-up performance
11.00 Key & Peele Double bill
12.00-1.45am FILM Jackass: The Movie (18, 2002) Comedy

Gold
SKY 110, VIRGIN 124, BT 343

7.00pm The Thin Blue Line
7.40 Dad's Army
8.20 Dad's Army
9.00 The Royle Family
9.40 Not Going Out
10.20 Not Going Out
11.00 The Fast Show
11.40-12.20am Harry Enfield and Chums Comedy sketches

W
FV 25, FS 156, SKY 132, VIRGIN 125

7.00pm MasterChef Australia Beloved food icon Maggie Beer is in the *Masterchef* kitchen
8.30 999 Rescue Squad
9.30 24 Hours in A&E A 95-year-old woman may have sustained life-changing injuries in a fall
10.30 Gavin & Stacey Double bill
11.50-12.30am Gavin & Stacey

Alibi
SKY 109, VIRGIN 114

7.00pm Elementary Holmes searches for a killer in a hospital
8.00 Death in Paradise (1/8)
9.00 Death in Paradise Florence's undercover role takes a dangerous turn when she finds herself in a murder investigation (4/9)
10.20 Annika Crime drama (6/6)
11.25-12.25am Person of Interest

Sky Main Event
SKY 401, VIRGIN 511, BT 440

8.30am Live DP World Tour Golf
12.00 Live One-Day International Cricket: England v New Zealand Coverage of the fourth one-day international in the series
8.00pm Live EFL: Southampton v Leicester City (Kick-off **8.00**)
10.30 Back Pages Tonight
11.00 Live PGA Tour Golf
2.00-6.00am Live Fight Night International: Luis Alberto Lopez v Joet Gonzalez Coverage of the IBF World Featherweight title bout from American Bank Centre

Sky Premier League
SKY 402, VIRGIN 512

7.00pm Premier League Preview
7.30 Premier League: The Big Interview An interview with a star of the past or present
8.00 Gary Neville's Soccerbox Gary chats with former England teammate Paul Scholes
8.30 Gary Neville's Soccerbox
9.00 Premier League Preview
9.30 Premier League: The Big Interview An interview with a star of the past or present
10.00 Premier League Icons
10.30-12.30am PL Retro



Shane Lowry defends his title at the BMW PGA Championship (Sky Main Event, 8.30am)

Sky Cricket
SKY 404, VIRGIN 514

12.00 Live One-Day International Cricket: England v New Zealand Coverage of the fourth one-day international in the four-match series, which takes place at Lord's
8.30pm Women's International One-Day Cricket England v Sri Lanka. Action from the third one-day international in the series
9.30 Talking Cricket
10.00 One-Day International Cricket England v New Zealand
11.00-12.00m't One-Day International Cricket

TNT Sports 1
SKY 410, VIRGIN 527, BT 430

8.00-10.00am Live AFLW: Geelong Cats v North Melbourne Tasmanian Kangaroos (Bounce-up **8.05**) Coverage of the match from GMHBA Stadium in South Geelong
10.15 Live Asia Cup Cricket A match from the Super Four stage of the competition
7.00pm Premier League Preview Upcoming action in the top flight
7.30pm-12.00m't Live Fight Night Action from TNT Sports Fight Night
1.00-3.00am Live WWE Friday Night SmackDown Wrestling

TNT Sports 2
SKY 411, VIRGIN 528, BT 431

10.30-1.30pm Live AFL
2.00-5.30pm Live PSA Squash Coverage of the finals of the Q-Terminals Qatar Classic
6.45 Inside Serie A
7.15 Ligue 1 Show
7.45 Live Ligue 1 French football
10.00 Uefa Champions League Magazine News and updates
10.30 Premier League Preview
11.00 The Fantasy Show
11.30-3.00am Live MLB: Pittsburgh Pirates v New York Yankees (Start-time **11.35**)

Friday 15

Film guide

Film4
FV 14 FS 300 SKY 313

11.00am Sands of Iwo Jima (PG, 1949) Second World War adventure starring John Wayne and John Agar
1.15pm At Gunpoint (U, 1955) Western with Fred MacMurray
2.55 23 Paces to Baker Street (PG, 1956) Thriller starring Van Johnson and Vera Miles
5.05 The Bedford Incident (PG, 1965) Cold War thriller starring Richard Widmark
7.10 Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey (PG, 1991) The would-be heavy metal stars take on the Grim Reaper to save their souls and stop their robot doubles from changing history. Comedy with Keanu Reeves and Alex Winter
9.00 The Revenant (15, 2015) A frontiersman left for dead by his hunting party goes on a gruelling journey through the wilderness seeking revenge. Western starring Leonardo DiCaprio. **See Film Choice**
12.05-3.15am Amores Perros (18, 2000) Mexican drama starring Gael Garcia Bernal and Emilio Echevarria

Talking Pictures TV
FV 82 FS 306 SKY 328 VIRGIN 445

6.00am Ensign O'Toole
6.30 Sammy Going South (U, 1963) Adventure starring Edward G Robinson
8.50 Behemoth the Sea Monster (PG, 1959) Fantasy thriller with Gene Evans
10.20 Falstaff: Chimes At Midnight (U, 1965) Shakespearean drama starring Orson Welles
12.40pm Innocent Sinners (U, 1958) Drama starring Flora Robson and Catherine Lacey
2.30 Crown Court
3.00 The House In Marsh Road (PG, 1960) Horror starring Tony Wright
4.25 Murder in Reverse (PG, 1945) Thriller starring William Hartnell and Jimmy Hanley
6.00 Time to Remember
6.30 Defence of the Realm (PG, 1985) A journalist's expose is followed by the death of a recently resigned MP, leading to suspicion of a wider conspiracy. Political thriller starring Gabriel Byrne
8.30 Dial 999
9.00 Cellar Club with Caroline Munro
9.05 The Stepfather (18, 1987) A teenage girl discovers her mother's new husband is a serial killer who has married then murdered a succession of single mothers. Thriller starring Terry O'Quinn
11.00 Cellar Club with Caroline Munro
11.05-12.40am Cellar Dweller (18, 1987) A student at an artist's retreat accidentally unleashes demonic creatures summoned by a comic-book artist in the 1930s. Horror starring Yvonne De Carlo



The horror Knock at the Cabin (Sky Cinema Premiere, 8pm)

GREAT! Movies
FV 34 FS 302 SKY 321 VIRGIN 425

9.00am Deadly Paradise (12, 2016) Thriller starring Boti Bliss and Antonio Sabato Jr
10.50 GREAT! Movie News
11.00 Lost Letter Mysteries: From the Heart (PG, 2016) Drama starring Eric Mabius
12.50pm GREAT! Movie News
1.00 Killer Reputation (PG, 2019) Thriller starring Anna Hutchison and Mark Lawson
2.50 GREAT! Movie News
3.00 A Bundle of Trouble: An Aurora Teagarden Mystery (PG, 2017) Whodunit starring Candace Cameron Bure
4.40 Black Widow (12, 2007) Thriller with Elizabeth Berkley
6.20 The Alamo (12, 2004) A vastly outnumbered group of Texan soldiers mounts a suicidal defence to protect a fortress against Mexican forces. Historical Western starring Dennis Quaid
9.00 Safe (15, 2012) A former cage fighter protects a 12-year-old girl holding valuable information that several criminal factions want. Action thriller starring Jason Statham and Catherine Chan
10.50-1.05am Son of a Gun (15, 2015) Crime drama starring Brenton Thwaites

Sky Cinema Premiere
SKY 301 VIRGIN 401

12.05pm Knock at the Cabin (15, 2023) Premiere. Horror mystery with Dave Bautista
2.00 M3gan (15, 2022) Horror starring Allison Williams
3.55 80 for Brady (12, 2023) Comedy starring Lily Tomlin
5.50 Something in the Dirt (15, 2022) Comedy drama starring Aaron Moorhead
8.00 Knock at the Cabin (15, 2023) A girl and her parents are taken hostage while vacationing and are given an impossible choice to avert the apocalypse. Horror mystery starring Dave Bautista
9.55 M3gan (15, 2022) A robotics engineer builds a life-like doll that begins to take on a life of its own. Horror with Allison Williams
11.50-2.05am Scream VI (18, 2023) Horror sequel starring Courteney Cox

Radio guide

Today's pick

Heart & Soul
World Service, 11.30am
Dr Jennifer Bryson was the first woman and first non-military lead interrogator at Guantanamo Bay, *right*. She tells this programme — subtitled *Faith, Terrorists and Mercy at Guantanamo Bay* — that during her two-year stint some inmates bragged about helping to organise the 9/11 attacks. However, in time, Colm Flynn learns, she became uneasy about some of the "enhanced interrogation" methods that she was asked to approve — such as playing extremely loud music to inmates for prolonged periods. What, she wonders, are the moral challenges of this work for a person of faith? Ben Dowell



MindGames

Samurai Sudoku No 888 — Medium

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									8	3				4						
								4	6		9	5								
						9				4	5									
	5	3										6					8	9		
			7	4					1					3				7	6	
	9				2	3	4				6									
		6	2	1	4							8			9			6	3	
9		5			8								3				6			5
						8	1						6		1					
	7						9									6		3	1	
				2				3				7					4			
		4	6		9		7									1	5	2		4

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Solution to last week's Samurai Sudoku

1	9	2	7	6	5	4	3	8				9	5	6	2	7	4	1	8	3
4	6	8	9	3	2	7	5	1				1	3	4	9	8	6	5	7	2
3	7	5	8	1	4	2	9	6				8	7	2	5	3	1	9	6	4
8	5	6	4	9	7	1	2	3				5	4	7	3	1	9	8	2	6
2	3	4	6	8	1	9	7	5				6	2	8	7	4	5	3	9	1
9	1	7	5	2	3	8	6	4				3	1	9	6	2	8	7	4	5
6	4	3	1	7	9	5	8	2	1	9	7	4	6	3	1	9	7	2	5	8
5	8	9	2	4	6	3	1	7	4	8	6	2	9	5	8	6	3	4	1	7
7	2	1	3	5	8	6	4	9	2	5	3	7	8	1	4	5	2	6	3	9
						8	7	6	5	2	1	9	3	4						
						9	5	3	7	4	8	6	1	2						
						1	2	4	6	3	9	8	5	7						
7	8	3	5	6	4	2	9	1	8	7	5	3	4	6	7	1	5	2	8	9
1	9	5	7	2	3	4	6	8	3	1	2	5	7	9	6	2	8	3	4	1
2	4	6	9	1	8	7	3	5	9	6	4	1	2	8	4	3	9	6	7	5
6	2	4	1	5	9	8	7	3				6	3	7	8	5	2	9	1	4
3	1	7	4	8	6	9	5	2				4	9	1	3	6	7	8	5	2
9	5	8	2	3	7	6	1	4				2	8	5	9	4	1	7	3	6
4	7	1	8	9	5	3	2	6				8	5	4	2	9	3	1	6	7
8	3	2	6	7	1	5	4	9				7	1	2	5	8	6	4	9	3
5	6	9	3	4	2	1	8	7				9	6	3	1	7	4	5	2	8

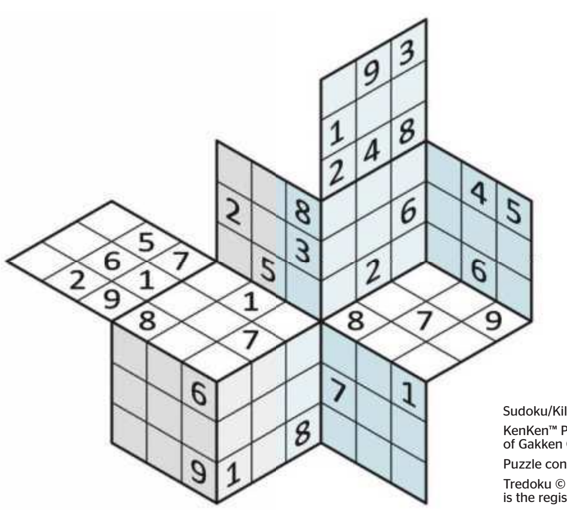
Our five-grid Sudoku will test your powers of logic and deduction.

Fill each grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Where the puzzles overlap, the rows and columns do not go beyond their usual length. The interlocking nature of the grid gives you more clues — and more complexity.

Remember — don't try to solve each Sudoku grid in turn; the puzzle has to be tackled as a whole.

Stuck? Call 0901 293 6263 to receive four clues for today's Samurai Sudoku. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm)

Tredoku No 1802 — Hard



Tredoku is similar to Sudoku: the digits 1 to 9 must appear once only in each 3x3 box and in each line of nine consecutive cells. However, since the puzzle is three-dimensional, the lines may be straight or bent around angles. Follow each line's direction in search of clues.

Sudoku/Killer © Puzzler Media
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Puzzle content © 2009 Gakken Co Ltd
Tredoku © Mindome Ltd 2009. TREDOKU® is the registered trademark of Mindome

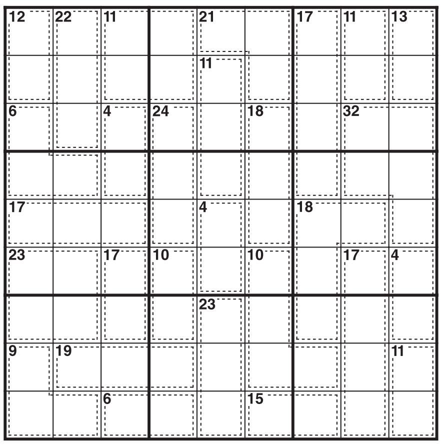
Sudoku No 14,312 — Fiendish

		3				2		
	8		6				7	
			7		3	1		
2			3	7			6	1
3			8	5			4	7
			9		7	6		
	9		4				8	
		8				5		

How to solve Sudoku. Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9

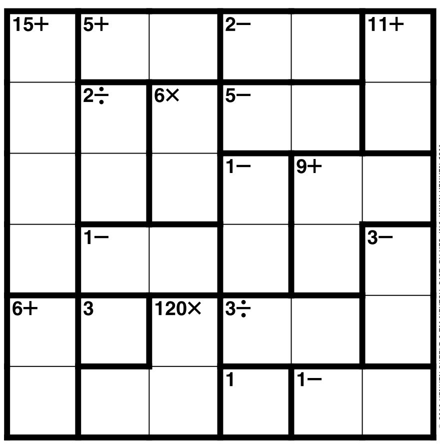
Stuck on KenKen, Killer or Sudoku?
Call 0901 293 6263 before midnight to receive four clues for any of today's puzzles. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge.
SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

Killer No 9061 — Deadly



Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Each set of cells joined by dotted lines must add up to the target number in its top-left corner. Within each set of cells joined by dotted lines, a digit cannot be repeated.
For solutions to KenKen, Sudoku & Killer see Times2 on Monday

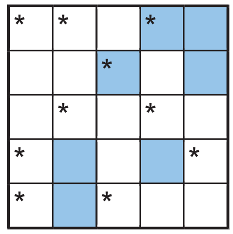
KenKen No 5994 — Medium



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All the digits 1 to 6 must appear in every row and column. In each thick-line "block", the target number in the top left-hand corner is calculated from the digits in all the cells in the block, using the operation indicated by the symbol.

Square Routes® No 235 — Easy
Ian Simpson & Richard Heald



ATOMIC
CHAOS
DOMINO
EMISSION
GAME
HORMIC
TWISTOR

Put one letter in each cell so that each word on the right can be spelt out by moving from cell to cell without using diagonal moves. You can use a cell more than once in a word (including backtracking into a cell you've just used), but double letters (eg, the LL in ALL) must use two adjacent cells. The words start in the coloured cells and the vowels are shown by asterisks.

Solution on Monday

Answers

Friday's solutions

KenKen No 5993

3− 5	2	5− 6	6+ 1	72× 3	1− 4
1− 3	4	1	2	6	5
3÷ 6	12+ 1	12+ 5	3	4	1− 2
2	5	4	5− 6	1	3
4 4	6	3	10× 5	2	1
3÷ 1	3	2÷ 2	4	1− 5	6

Sudoku No 14,309

1	5	8	9	6	3	2	4	7
3	7	9	1	2	4	8	6	5
4	6	2	5	8	7	1	3	9
8	4	3	2	5	6	9	7	1
6	9	5	7	3	1	4	8	2
2	1	7	4	9	8	6	5	3
9	8	4	3	7	2	5	1	6
7	2	6	8	1	5	3	9	4
5	3	1	6	4	9	7	2	8

Sudoku No 14,310

2	8	6	4	5	7	3	9	1
4	3	1	9	6	8	5	2	7
5	9	7	3	2	1	6	4	8
3	7	5	2	1	4	9	8	6
9	4	8	6	7	3	2	1	5
6	1	2	5	8	9	4	7	3
8	5	4	1	9	6	7	3	2
7	6	9	8	3	2	1	5	4
1	2	3	7	4	5	8	6	9

Sudoku No 14,311

5	2	9	6	7	1	8	3	4
6	1	4	3	9	8	5	2	7
3	8	7	2	4	5	9	1	6
4	3	2	5	6	9	7	8	1
1	6	8	7	2	3	4	9	5
9	7	5	1	8	4	2	6	3
8	5	1	4	3	2	6	7	9
2	4	6	9	1	7	3	5	8
7	9	3	8	5	6	1	4	2

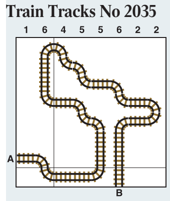
Killer No 9059

5	6	4	8	7	1	9	2	3
1	9	7	6	3	2	5	4	8
3	8	2	5	9	4	1	7	6
7	1	8	3	2	5	4	6	9
9	3	6	4	8	7	2	1	5
2	4	5	9	1	6	3	8	7
8	2	3	1	6	9	7	5	4
4	7	9	2	5	8	6	3	1
6	5	1	7	4	3	8	9	2

Killer No 9060

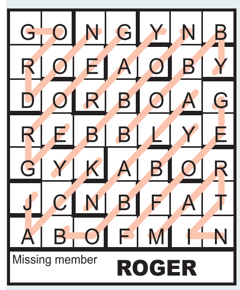
8	2	3	6	7	1	9	5	4
9	6	5	3	4	2	8	7	1
4	7	1	9	8	5	3	6	2
1	9	8	7	5	6	4	2	3
6	5	4	2	3	9	7	1	8
2	3	7	4	1	8	5	9	6
3	8	6	5	2	7	1	4	9
7	1	9	8	6	4	2	3	5
5	4	2	1	9	3	6	8	7

Train Tracks No 2035



Codeword No 5001





The Listener 4777
No 21 by Child's Play
Reading diagonals from the top left to bottom right gave the forenames of members of England's 1966 Football World Cup Final team, in shirt number order: Gordon, George, Ray, Nobby, Jack, Bobby, Alan, Bobby, Geoff, Martin. The other member was Roger Hunt in shirt number 21. More details at listenercrossword.com. The winners are Don Thompson of Bolton, Greater Manchester; RA England of London W3; Gill Cocks of Winchcombe, Gloucestershire.

Solve Cryptic Quintagram every weekday online
Go to thetimes.co.uk

Cryptic Quintagram®

Solve all five cryptic clues using each letter underneath once only

1 Quiet at home, and secure (3)

_ _ _

2 Call time probing illustration that's obscure (7)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _

3 Middle part of orbit over the moon delayed (7)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _

4 Teasing climb during gentle run (7)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _

5 Secure place with fine gold lock (8)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

A	B	C	C	D	E	E	E
F	G	H	I	I	I	J	L
N	N	O	O	P	P	R	R
R	S	S	S	T	T	T	Y

Answers below

Word Watch
David Parfitt

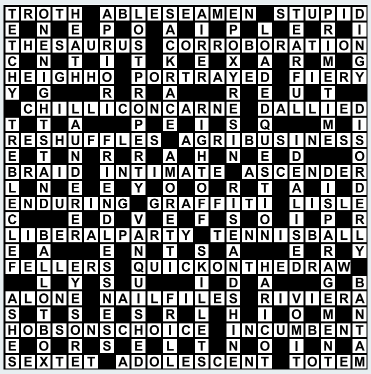
Dephlogisticate
a. To relieve of inflammation
b. To talk nonsense
c. To deduce

Hippocrepian
a. A medic
b. Horseshoe-shaped
c. A source of inspiration

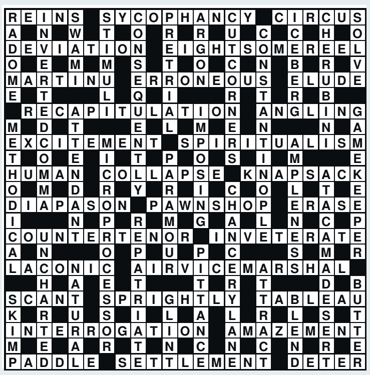
Herpolhode
a. A Cornish watermill
b. An electrical contact
c. A geometric curve

Mamaguy
a. A nautical rope
b. A tropical fruit
c. To deceive or tease

Answers below

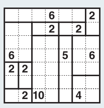


Solution to Cryptic Jumbo 1631
The winner is Keith Seago of Hagley, West Midlands

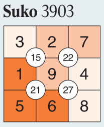


Solution to times2 Jumbo 1631
The winner is Rachel Stanhope of Birmingham

Cell Blocks 4884



Suko 3903



Mindset
1. 11: Raft, dinghy, skiff, junk, ketch, punt, brig, sloop, pedalo, ark, dhow.
2. a is {18}, b is {34}, c is {6}. Answers are (a) 81, (b) 343, (c) 666, (a+b) 3481, (a+c) 1681, (b+c) 3364, (a+b+c) 16384.
3. ALTO, LOOM, PAGE, HANG, AREA — begin with ALPHA and end with OMEGA.

Word Watch:
Dephlogisticate (a) To relieve of inflammation (*Collins*).
Hippocrepian (b) Horseshoe-shaped (*Chambers*).
Herpolhode (c) A geometric curve (*OED*).
Mamaguy (c) To deceive or tease (*Chambers*).

Polygon
acetous, auto, coast, coat, coset, cost, costa, cote, fatso, focus, foetus, oast, offcut, offset, oust, outface, scoff, scot, scout, soca, sofa, soft, softa, stoa, **suffocate**, taco, toea, toff, tofu, tosa.

Scrabble
EVENLY (H3a or H7a), keeping N. The H3a placement sets up UNEVENLY with a U draw; CONVERSING, TRAVERSING (SUBVERSING and RENVERSING are also valid).

Literary quiz 1 Biography of John Donne **2** The Beatles **3** The victims of Jack the Ripper **4** "Ordinary lives in North Korea".

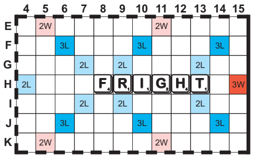
Cryptic Quintagram 1 Pin **2** Cryptic **3** Belated **4** Joshing **5** Fortress.

Scrabble® Paul Gallen

This week's column focuses on one of the most aesthetically pleasing types of play in Scrabble: extensions. Consider the following opening rack from a recent tournament game.

F G H I N R T

The player could score 34 points by playing FRIGHT at either H4a or H8a. However, the latter placement, shown on the board extract below, was more advantageous to the N remaining on the rack.



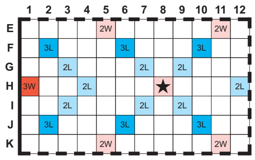
If the player drew one of the 12 unseen E tiles, a subsequent move of FRIGHTEN for 45 points was possible if not blocked by the opponent.

With these thoughts in mind, can you complete the following challenges using the opening rack and board extract opposite?

- Find the six-letter word available that would score 32 points using two different placements.

- Decide which of the two placements would be most advantageous to the remaining tile on the rack and identify the possible extension available on a future turn.

E E L N N V Y

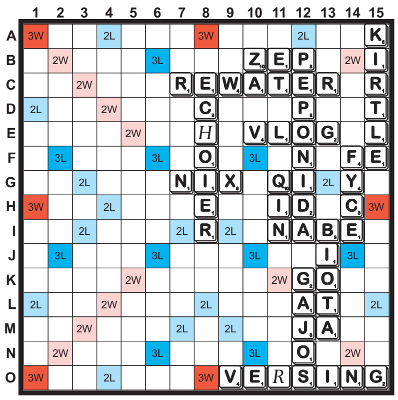


Such plays can be satisfying if one is able to capitalise on the area on a future turn. However, prior to any move one should consider the score and tiles left on the rack when utilising an extension opportunity. For example, in the first diagram, it would be risky to play EN to extend FRIGHT to FRIGHTEN if the move left five consonants or five vowels on the rack.

The deciding game of the 2023 World English Scrabble Players Association Championship illustrated this point. Harshan Lamabadusuriya used the best letters on his rack to utilise the RE- extension, forming REVERSING (O7a) on the main board below. While this scored reasonably well, Lamabadusuriya left EOUUW on his rack, resulting in a subsequent exchange of tiles. Can you think of two common words formed by three-letter front extensions of VERSING?

Collins Official Scrabble Words is the word authority used.
Word positions use the grid reference plus (a)cross or (d)own.

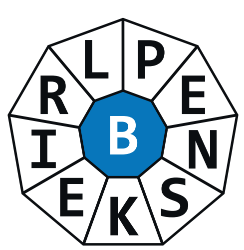
2L double letter square (dl) | 3L triple letter square (tl) | 2W double word square (dw) | 3W triple word square (tw)



Letter values
1 point: A E I O U L N R S T
2 points: D G
3 points: B C M P
4 points: F H V W Y
K = 5
J X = 8
Q Z = 10

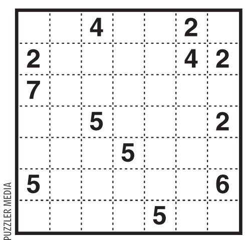
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Polygon Roger Phillips



Using the given letters no more than once, make as many words as possible of four or more letters, always including the central letter. Capitalised words, plurals, conjugated verbs (past tense etc), adverbs ending in LY, comparatives and superlatives are disallowed.
How you rate: 14 words average; 19, good; 25, very good; 32, excellent.
Answers to Friday's Polygon are to the left. Today's answers are printed in MindGames on Monday

Cell Blocks 4885



© PUZZLER MEDIA

Divide the grid into square or rectangular blocks, each containing one digit only. Every block must contain the number of cells indicated by the digit inside it.
Yesterday's solution, left

Chess David Howell

A new dawn
The UK has a new number one. Nikita Vitiugov, the world number 25 with a FIDE rating of 2719, has officially transferred to the English federation from Russia.

Vitiugov is arguably the most high-profile name to change allegiances over the past 18 months. The 36-year-old joins the exodus of grandmasters from Russia, a country that has lost many of its top talents since FIDE passed a ruling abolishing transfer fees earlier this year. While Russia has downplayed the loss of its fourth highest-rated player, this will surely be a heavy blow.

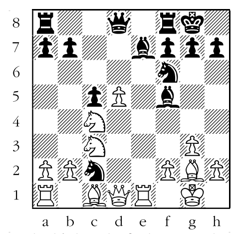
Vitiugov's switch means that he overtakes the writer of this column as England's highest-rated active player. The sudden and unexpected news of his arrival was revealed to his future teammates on social media, and the coincides with the recent announcement of financial investment into chess from the Government.

So, what can British chess fans expect from their new number one?

Vitiugov originally hails from St Petersburg, a city with deep chess culture, but he has been living in Spain since the outbreak of the war in Ukraine. Having experienced consistent success on the international tournament circuit, Vitiugov is renowned as an opening expert and a prolific coach. The English federation will hope that his professional approach will inspire their next generation of players.

The following game, played during his triumphant campaign at the 2021 Russian Championship, showcases Vitiugov's impressive opening preparation and high-energy style of play.

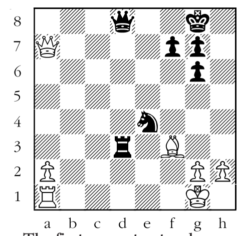
White: Nikita Vitiugov
Black: Dmitri Andreikin
Russian Championship, Ufa 2021
Catalan Opening
1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 Nf3 d5 4 g3 Bb4+ 5 Nc3 0-0 6 Bg2 dxc4 7 0-0 Nc6 8 Re1 In return for an early pawn sacrifice, White aims to build a strong centre. **8...Be7** A rare choice, clearing the b4-square for a black knight. Vitiugov, however, emphatically reveals the drawbacks of Black losing time. 8...Rb8, planning 9...b5, and the combative 8...Nd5 are more principled alternatives. **9 e4 Nb4** Play now becomes sharp and forceful. **10 Ne5 c5 11 d5 exd5 12 exd5 Bf5 13 Nxc4 Nc2**



Black's knight forks two white rooks. To the untrained eye, White is in trouble. Vitiugov had clearly studied this position in detail beforehand, however, and unleashes a steady flow of powerful counter-threats. **14 Re5!** Hitting an unprotected piece. **14...Bg6** If 14...Nxa1 15 Rxf5 the black knight will soon get trapped in the corner. **15 d6 Bxd6 16 Nxd6 Nxa1 17 Bg5 Nc2 18 Nd5** White is temporarily down the exchange, but it is clear where the momentum lies. **18...Kh8** Not 18...Qxd6? 19 Nxf6+ when the black queen falls. **19 Ne4** Despite reaching a brand new position on move 8, Vitiugov is still in his homework. He continues playing fast and accurate chess, not spending more than three minutes on any move. **19...Qb8 20 Bxf6 gxf6 21 Re7 Nb4 22 Nxb4 cxb4 23 Qd4 Qd8?** Vitiugov's opponent, already low on the clock after being hit by dynamic moves on every turn, finally panics. 23...Rd8! was the best way to navigate the complexities. Chances are balanced after 24 Qxf6+ Kg8 25 h4. **24 Qxf6+ Kg8 25 Nd6!** The first long pause from Vitiugov. White's knight utterly dominates the black army. **25...Rc8** A sad but necessary decision. Black gives back the material. **26 Nxc8 Qd1+ 27 Bf1 Rxc8 28 Rxb7 a5 29 h4 Qd8 30 Qe5** White has an extra pawn, the more active pieces, and the safer king. **30...h5 31 Be2 Qf8 32 Bf3 Rc5 33 Bd5 Kh7 34 Rd7 Qc8 35 Qe7 Rc1+ 36 Kg2 Qa6** Black loses patience. 36...Re1 prolongs the battle: 37 Qxe1 Qxd7 though White should eventually win. **37 Bxf7!** Calling Black's bluff. **37...Qf1+ 38 Kf3 Qh1+ Black resigns.** The desperate checks run out after 39 Kf4, whereupon White is the one who will deliver checkmate.

Winning Move

Black to Play. Bluebaum-Vitiugov, Karlsruhe 2018. How did Vitiugov profit from the exposed nature of the white king?



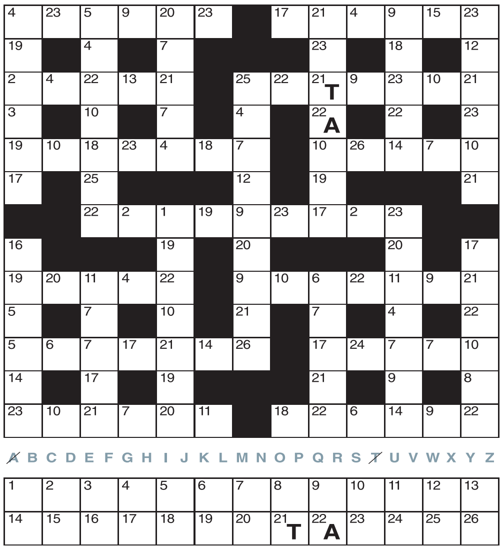
The first correct entry drawn on Thursday will receive a copy of *Collins English Dictionary and Thesaurus*. The two runners-up will receive a book prize. Answers on a postcard to: The Times Winning Move, PO Box 2164, Colchester, Essex CO2 8LJ, or email to: winningmove@thetimes.co.uk. Open to 18+, UK and ROI residents only. The answer will be published next Saturday.
Solution to last week's puzzle: 1...Qh3+! wins: **2 Kxh3** (2 Kg1 Qh1+! is similar) **2...Nxf2+ 3 Kg2 Nxe4** with an extra pawn.
The winner is David MacDonald of Edinburgh



MindGames

The Times Crossword, Latin Crossword, Saturday Quiz and Suko are in the back of the main paper

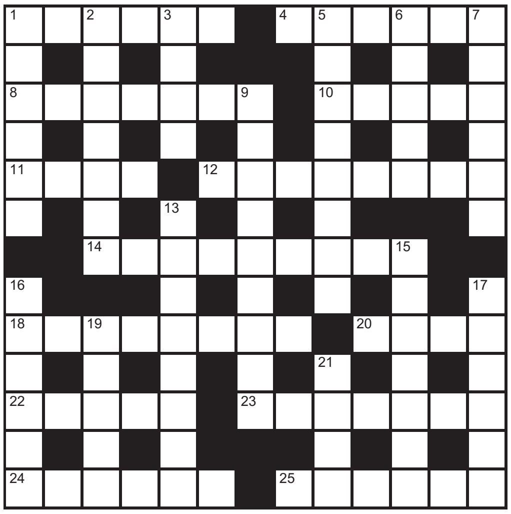
Codeword No 5002



Every letter in this crossword-style grid is represented by a number from 1 to 26. Each letter of the alphabet appears at least once. Use the letters already provided to work out further letters. Enter letters in the main grid and the smaller reference grid. Proper nouns are excluded. *Yesterday's solution on page 48*

Stuck on Codeword? To receive four random clues call 0901 293 6262 or text TIMECODE to 64343. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge. Texts cost £1 plus your standard network charge. For the full solution call 0905 757 0142. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5.30pm).

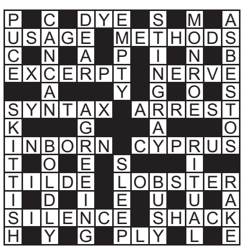
times2 Crossword No 9318



Across
1 Italian title for a man (6)
4 Hurled, flung (6)
8 Free time (7)
10 Farewell (5)
11 Cereal grains used to make flapjacks (4)
12 Warmth, friendliness (8)
14 Bitterly hostile (9)
18 Affecting the whole of a body or organisation (8)
20 Unit of electric potential (4)
22 Pointed outgrowths on cattle, goats etc (5)
23 Destructive wave (7)
24 Flemish baroque painter (1577-1640) (6)
25 Strike more powerfully or often than (6)

Down
1 Having an unhealthy complexion (6)
2 Sparkling particles (7)
3 Musical work (4)
5 London airport (8)
6 Hatred, repugnance (5)
7 Queasiness (6)
9 One studying living interactions (9)
13 Face to face (2,6)
15 Digestive organ (7)
16 Bible book recounting the acts of a Persian queen (6)
17 Taking a hard line (6)
19 Brush vigorously (5)
21 Spiritual mentor (4)

Solution to Crossword 9317



Need help with today's puzzle? Call 0905 757 0143 to check the answers. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

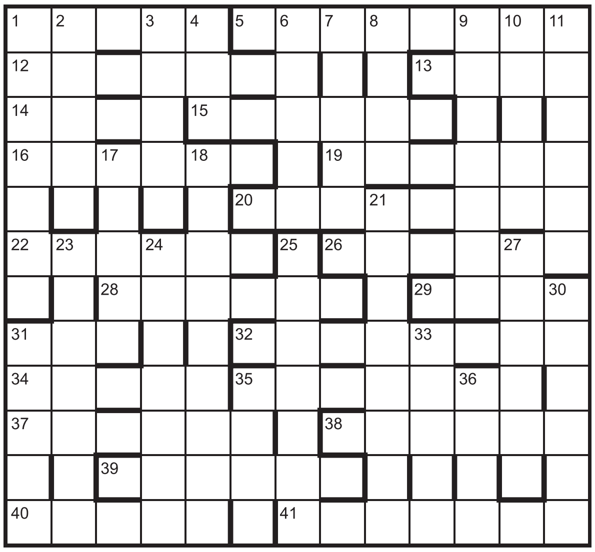
The Listener Crossword No 4780 **Best Available** by Kea

Senders of the first three correct entries drawn will receive *Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase and Fable* or may choose from a selection of other books (see below). Send your entry with contact details completed to: Listener Crossword 4780, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL3 6HE, to arrive by September 21.

Listener 4777 solution on page 48

Prize options and more at listenercrossword.com

More information about Chambers books can be found at chambers.co.uk



Name..

Address..

Postcode.................... **Phone/email**....................

This puzzle celebrates a person's notable role, on his birthday. Eight answers must be entered with a letter misprinted; wordplay in their clues leads to the misprinted form. The replaced letters could be CLEAN YET. In 15 other clues a missing letter must be restored to enable solving. These letters spell out a song title that describes a change solvers must make six times in the grid and what each of five entries becomes as a result. Three features mentioned in the song, each appropriately disposed in the grid, must then be highlighted (22 cells in total), along with the two-word name of a painting said to have inspired the title of the song's source. All final grid entries are real words or phrases. *The Chambers Dictionary* (2016) is the primary reference; one answer is an abbreviation.

Across
1 Hollow rod pins PJs showing nether end (5)
5 Scottish port study previously held back by European (8)
12 Following recipe, see pungent sauce coats things for Easter in Italy? (7)
13 One doesn't taxi much, much withdrawn (4)
14 Poor survey exposed area of relaxed rules (4)
15 Aged fellow escapes flipping maulers (6)
16 Some old strings happen to divide parks (6)
19 Agitation a revolutionary greatly enjoyed (6)
20 Preaching don established church in form of preservation (8)
22 Pressure with many risings in US city (6)
26 In meadow, metal hides old country shed (6)
28 Brass round vulgar pad fathers often fill (6)
29 Swerve delaying a runner in Yakutsk (4)
31 Assistance to divers from doctors (3)
32 Dress and shave, clipping sides of stubble (8)
34 Military info no good in unlimited battle (5)
35 Brown coal mass to burn (7)
37 Shift that is giving top coverage on Sky? (6)
38 Come again into tower and try again (6)
39 Long piece contains current military info (6)
40 Seat for the elderly in abridged *Merchant* (5)
41 Earlier blot beside second blot (7)

Down
1 Lifting finer pint drinks to be broken off (7)
2 Was owing on account of debt indicator (5)
3 July the fourth and finally independence must come in with vigorous steps (5)
4 Dove, exceptionally large, defied dawn (3)
6 Having got up, putting foot in the middle, lightly wash (5)
7 Pioneering device that ends neurasthenia (5)
8 Oldster's age is passionate, beginning with change of partner (4)
9 Sinuous Oriental sort of creature with marked ears and fur (7)
10 Chat and cheat (5)
11 Awkwardly made Kuala Lumpur guy crazy about diamonds (6)
17 Twirl cut leg before getting over hiccups (5)
18 Upsetting peace, one spears whale for fat (9)
21 In tears, reverse of enraptured state of perfection (8)
23 Insomniac's reedy, to offend nobody (7)
24 Republic Bill blocked by Indonesia (7)
25 Conduct individual performances with success (7)
27 Square, almost elegant in consequence (6)
30 Change in Jerusalem since trophy? (6)
31 Regular erection of regular holiday homes (5)
33 Sheikh oddly ignored in part of greetings (5)
35 Fighter for pay rise about to interrupt M Caine (4)
36 Who's in transient employment? (4)

Mindset by 700

1. In this question watercraft are hiding. Hypothetically we might ask if, for example, during a Mindset junket, cheap untested brightly coloured paper planes looped a lot till folk remarked. **How many are hidden?**

2. a, b and c are sets of digits with no digit in more than one set. Using ALL of the digits in the sets indicated (possibly with repetition), and no other digits, numbers can be made with the following definitions. **Identify all of the answers.**
(a) 4th power (b) 3-digit cube (c) 3-digit triangular number, (a+b) Prime number [p] squared, (a+c) Prime number (100-p) squared, (b+c) (p-1) squared, (a+b+c) 5 digit power of 2.

3. Arrange in a different logical order:
ALTO, AREA, HANG, LOOM, PAGE

Answers on page 49

Literary Quiz

The Times Literary Desk

You Couldn't Make it Up
The longlist of the 2023 Baillie Gifford Prize for non-fiction was announced this week. Can you name the subject matter of these previous winners?
1 *Super-Infinite* by Katherine Rundell
2 *One Two Three Four* by Craig Brown
3 *The Five* by Hallie Rubenhold
4 *Nothing to Envy* by Barbara Demick

Answers on page 49

Bridge Andrew Robson

Charles Worsley Anderson-Pelham (1809-1862), was a fine card-player. He usually beat his fellow card players — who thought he had to be a luckier card-holder (their egos would not accept that he was simply better). The Earl of Yarborough, for it is he, took advantage of this with a shrewd bet.

The good lord offered his fellow card players £1,000 (a small fortune in those days) each time they picked up a hand without a ten or above, on condition that every time they did NOT pick up such a hand, they would give Yarborough one pound.

Now Yarborough knew that the odds against picking up a hand without a ten or above — henceforth called a yarborough — are 1828:1, so he would be quids in. His fellow card players assumed they got beaten because they picked up many such hands and were delighted to accept the bet.

When you do pick up a yarborough — as you undoubtedly will — you must never give the show away. I wonder whether East gave a tell on this deal from the Harold Poster Swiss Pairs at the EBU Summer Meeting in Eastbourne.

Dealer North N-S Vul

North: ♠ A 2 ♥ A Q 10 5 3 2 ♦ Q 6 3 ♣ Q 10
West: ♠ K Q 10 9 8 5 3 ♥ 4 ♦ A K J ♣ K 5
East: ♠ 7 4 ♥ 9 8 7 6 ♦ 8 5 4 ♣ 8 4 3 2
South: ♠ J 6 ♥ K J ♦ 10 9 7 2 ♣ A J 9 7 6

S	W	N	E
		1♥	Pass
2♣	2♠	3♥(1)	Pass
3♠(2)	Dbl	Redbl(3)	Pass
3NT	end		

(1) A tad pushy as North would have bid only 2♥ if West had passed.
(2) Does well not to simply raise to 4♥ (no play on best defence) but rather to grope for the nine-trick game.
(3) Such a redouble shows the ace (of spades); this is a useful agreement to have that really pays off when partner has the queen and 3NT can be "right-sided".

West led the king of spades (ducked) then followed with the king of diamonds (to tell partner he held ace-king) before reverting to a second spade. Declarer won and cashed six rounds of hearts, West discarding four spades, the jack of diamonds, and ... a club.

West baring his king of clubs was his only realistic hope. Throw another spade and declarer could exit with a diamond and force West to lead from ♣Kx (actually, a diamond would be promoted so the second club trick would be unnecessary).

Declarer read that West had come down to a singleton club. He led dummy's queen and East played low (playing low being East's forte on this deal). Whether East's disinterest had given the show away I don't know but declarer rose with the ace, felling West's king, and he could now cash out the clubs to make overtricks.

andrew.robson@thetimes.co.uk

For more crosswords and your favourite puzzles go to thetimes.co.uk

Jumbo crossword No 1634

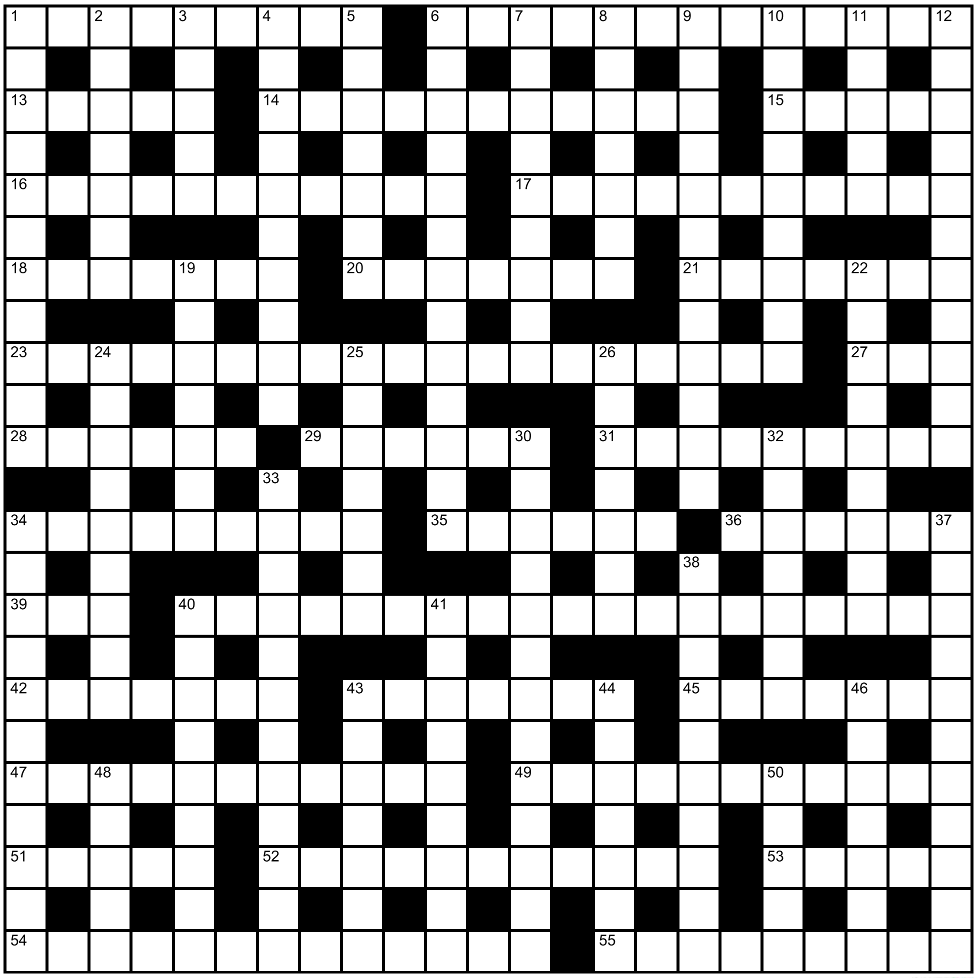
Cryptic clues

Across

1 In denial, said to speak rudely of a letter (9)
6 Enterprising few go on river after a time in December (13)
13 Champion in car is a speed merchant (5)
14 Translated from the Italian side, quietly discourage going back (11)
15 Seize up almost solid inside (5)
16 Firm with people fed up about parking getting repaid (11)
17 Sort of writing: in it, learner is struggling (11)
18 Old ass rejected a herb (7)
20 Roughly cut last of cake to be handed round outside (7)
21 Sibling perhaps gets free of temperature and aches (7)
23 Hot in quad, fellows heartlessly tend to revise work (3,5,5,3,3)
27 Artist captures one valley (3)
28 Has TV dinner perhaps each time: wrong! (4,2)
29 We hear a tower is a fascinating sight (6)
31 Flexible about day, open to change (9)
34 Opening of story lacks tension at first for companion (9)
35 One decidedly getting the better of someone's communications equipment (6)
36 One regularly inside ordered to remove initial insulation (3,3)
39 Dull start to good book (3)
40 Forgotten about, if not in my view (3,2,5,3,2,4)
42 I arrest criminal that lives in a tree (7)
43 Scots own being busy, over the moon (7)
45 Regularly glad about a dead figure brought to life (7)
47 Fat French consumer minds being so poor at concentrating? (11)
49 Checking son gets out of bed: urgent! (11)
51 Emerging adult's single paper round (5)
52 Suitable little room head of state finds attractive (4-7)
53 In need of exercise, force contributes to one (5)
54 Charitable undertaking, replanting lake with snowdrops (9,4)
55 Hurtle around, covering the country in this? (6,3)

Down

1 Urgent case taken round to the management (11)
2 Entertainer Harry becomes wild (7)
3 Caretaker trimmed edge of grass (5)
4 Covered in panels, cart sped along, spilling nothing (10)
5 A rhetorical figure is not truthful about child (7)
6 War film cut excessively (1,6,3,3)
7 Green coat of composer is patched with grey (9)
8 Drooped, having changed form, disregarding a stroke (7)
9 Reserves not enough rooms (12)
10 Learning one of the basic lessons in Brussels' way of speaking, caught out (9)
11 Valuable safety device, nothing superior (2,3)
12 Part of America is temperate, but that is changing (6,5)
19 Vehicle I have to support area offensive (7)
22 Biscuit I dropped in clothes store (9)
24 Slater's rubbish wheeled over (9)
25 Knowing possible insertion into table, but it's blank (7)
26 Rejection of call for effort (5-2)
30 Evidently amused by where one holds rifle: the butt (8,5)
32 Miserable, with government aid not quite generous? (7)
33 Barrow boy needing grocer's men to supply (12)
34 Tackle aeroplane disaster in field with tears (4,2,5)
37 One receiving sponsorship graded tough to break (11)
38 Performance nerves, losing heart as the audience left (5,5)
40 Gaps in bulbs when young lady replaces narcissi in the front (9)
41 Pause when Victor's forgotten one answer among many (5,4)
43 Recommendation for our chief went forward nervously (7)
44 Inform of an award over the phone (7)
46 Wicked stinging plant about to fell daughter (7)
48 Mission that has infiltrated site of nuclear bomb development? (5)
50 Marshal's military order sent to the rear (5)



Name..

Address..

....

....

.... Postcode....................................

Phone number..

Prizes



The prize for each of the first correct solutions to the Cryptic and times2 Jumbo clues to be opened will be a collection of Times reference books — including *The Times Universal Atlas of the World, Collins English Dictionary & Thesaurus,* and *Bradford's Crossword Solver's Dictionary* published by HarperCollins. Entries should be marked "Cryptic" or "times2" and sent to: The Times Jumbo Crossword 1634, PO Box 2164, Colchester, Essex CO2 8LJ; or emailed to: jumbo@thetimes.co.uk, with "Cryptic 1634" or "times2 1634" in the subject line, to arrive by September 21. Open to 18+, UK & ROI residents only. The winners and the solutions will be published on September 23.

times2 clues

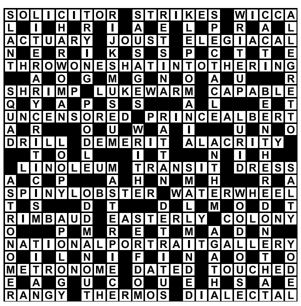
Across

1 Someone who thinks only of themselves (9)
6 Like, eg, anteaters (13)
13 Old measure of length (5)
14 Alcoholic (11)
15 Kingdom (5)
16 Circulating area of high pressure (11)
17 Connect to one another (11)
18 Forbidden by law (7)
20 Area of east London (7)
21 Speak or write (about someone) with great hostility (7)
23 Novel by John Wyndham (3,3,2,3,8)
27 Common ailment (3)
28 Cows, oxen (6)
29 Eg, rye (6)
31 Make (pain) less severe (9)
34 Person who relies on another (9)
35 Close-fitting garment (6)
36 Ceremonially smear with oil (6)
39 — Lovelace, computer pioneer (3)
40 TV quiz programme (10,9)
42 Wandering (7)
43 Native to, eg, Truro (7)
45 Completely confused (7)
47 Lay on top (11)
49 Drudge; forced rower (6,5)
51 US state (5)
52 Not able to be tolerated (11)
53 Stringed instrument (5)
54 Irascible (5-8)
55 Lacking flavour (9)

Down

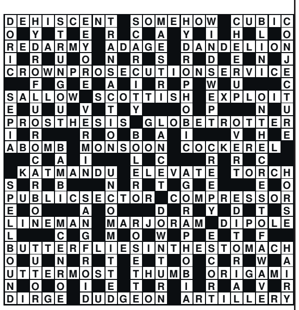
1 Relating to the Christian sacrament (11)
2 Road passing around a town (7)
3 Upper room (5)
4 Sign, symptom (10)
5 Abundant in quantity (7)
6 Surrounded by what is most natural or pleasing (2,4,7)
7 Seller of paper, pens, etc (9)
8 (Of decor) flowery; cheap, tawdry (7)
9 Not able to be reformed (12)
10 We or us personally (9)
11 City of Nebraska (5)
12 Small garden building (6,5)
19 Charlie —, film comedian (7)
22 General increase in prices (9)
24 Supposed substance emanating from mediums (9)
25 Playhouse (7)
26 Distraught with fear or anxiety (7)
30 Prone to steal (5-8)
32 Common flavouring (7)
33 Council established in France in spring 1871 (5,7)
34 Disease identification as a branch of medicine (11)
37 Involving betrayal (11)
38 Social awkwardness (10)
40 Layer of paint (9)
41 Yield; give up (9)
43 Shut entirely (5,2)
44 Food fish (7)
46 Person undergoing instruction (7)
48 Keyboard instrument (5)
50 Cavalry sword (5)

Bank holiday Cryptic Jumbo No 1632



The winner is Stephen Addison of Birlingham, Worcestershire

Bank holiday times2 Jumbo No 1632



The winner is Simon Chillingworth of Wolverhampton, West Midlands

Train Tracks returns next week


★★★★★ DAILY MAIL
★★★★★ DAILY TELEGRAPH
★★★★★ FINANCIAL TIMES
★★★★★ THE I
THIS SUMMER'S BIG MUSICAL COMEDY
★★★★★ WHATSONSTAGE
★★★★ EVENING STANDARD
★★★★ THE TIMES
★★★★★ THE STAGE
'AN ABSOLUTE JOY OF A SHOW. GO!'
DAILY TELEGRAPH
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THE TIMES
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 9 2023

Sport

Two great interviews

- Chris Powell on coaching Saka…and Ted Lasso stars
- Charlie Wyke, the prolific goalscorer with a pacemaker

PAGES 6-7





BEN'S BACK…
but he can't stop rampant New Zealand

Report, pages 8-9

Ben Stokes' half-century is in vain as New Zealand win with ease

TOM SANDBERG/PPAUK/SHUTTERSTOCK

Southgate: We're ready to win Euros

England manager set to keep faith with Saudi-based Henderson for Ukraine qualifier

Martin Hardy, Paul Joyce
Wroclaw

Gareth Southgate says the current England squad now has the belief and desire to win the country's first major honour since 1966.

England can qualify for next year's European Championship in Germany over the course of this round of fixtures if they beat Ukraine in Poland today and other results go their way.

Southgate, who is set to select Jordan Henderson and Harry Maguire for the qualifying group C match, has led England to a final, a semi-final and a quarter-final in the past three major tournaments and spoke of a change in expectation. "They have had a lot of success at club level and for a lot of them the missing piece is something with England, which they know would be bigger than anything else they have achieved," he said. "The whole group are determined on that.

"There is definitely belief and they definitely have huge desire. They are really responsive and I can't speak how highly we feel to be able to work with them every day. This group want challenge, they want targets and obstacles to overcome.

"That's served us well over a period of time. We have been to a lot of big countries and won there for the first time in decades, or got to the final rounds of tournaments for the first time in decades.

"The job is to get the best out of the players you have. The quality of the players you have determines the best way to go and get a result in certain games. When we started a long time ago we didn't have the quality of wide players we have now.

"For some players, it will be probably their last chance to win something, some will be at their peak, and some have still got space to grow. I don't see the team falling off a cliff after the next tournament. There's enough youngsters that still have their best years ahead of them. It's a good balance."

Southgate backed both Henderson and Maguire to start on what will be an emotional night in Wroclaw. Henderson faced criticism from the LGBTQ+ community during the week for the way he justified his move to the Saudi Pro League, and Maguire has not started a Premier League game for Manchester United this season.

"I don't pick the team based on external reaction as you'll be well aware over the course of seven years," Southgate

Continued on page 2

Ukraine v England
European Championship qualifier, group C
Today, 5pm
TV: Channel 4

Kane targets 'movie script'

Henry Winter
Chief Football Writer, Wroclaw



Harry Kane, the Bayern Munich and England forward, can imagine the dream "movie" being written in which he becomes a European champion with his German team on English soil and European champion with his English team-mates on German soil. Well, he does now star for FC Hollywood, so called because of all the drama that surrounds them.

Speaking after England landed here in Wroclaw last night before this evening's tough Euro 2024 qualifier against Ukraine, Kane spoke powerfully about the winning mentality at Bayern, his near rivalry with the prolific Jude Bellingham, his envy at seeing his compatriots win trophies, and also of that tale of two cities, London and Berlin.

Kane is not the triumphalist type but he clearly enjoyed the possible script of the two trophies, one in London on June 1 and the other in Berlin on July 14. "Yes! I've been told about the Champions League final in Wembley, for sure," Kane said. "I know the Euros are in Germany next summer so [if] there's someone out there writing a movie, I'll try and do my best to make it happen!"

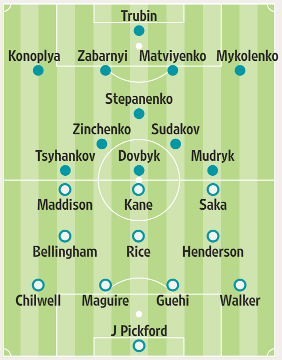
He pointed out the rigours of such a challenge. "It's hard. There's so much time to go I don't want to think about it too much, but if it did happen it would be incredible." Bayern have been drawn against Manchester United, FC Copenhagen and Galatasaray in their Champions League group. Of United, Kane said, "It will be a tough one but I'm looking forward to it."

Having moved to the German champions for £86 million, Kane relished the demands of life at the Allianz Arena. "It's definitely a different pressure compared to what I felt at Spurs," he said. "Of course we wanted to win things at Spurs but if you went a couple of games without winning then it wasn't a disaster. The feeling at Bayern is that you have to win every game.

"We won the first two games 4-0 and 3-1 and there was still talk about not being too happy about the way we played. That's part and parcel of being at one of the biggest clubs in the world. We start the Champions League campaign when we get back, which they expect to win – or have a good chance of winning. So you're going into those games with maybe a different feeling to what I've had in the past."

Ukraine v England

Stadion Wroclaw
Kick-off 5pm, TV Channel 4
Radio talkSPORT
Referee G Kabakov (Bulgaria)
Ukraine (probable; 4-1-2-3)



England (probable; 4-3-3)

There is a respect, if not fear, for English players in Germany, after Bellingham's success with Borussia Dortmund, and also Kane and company knocking Germany out of Euro 2020.

"I'm not too sure about 'fear'. I think in recent games and of course in the Euros, the way we performed, we've earned the respect of Germany," Kane said.

Kane has hit the ground running in the Bundesliga, scoring three in three, while noting Bellingham's prolific immersion into life at Real Madrid with five in four. "I've seen his great start in La Liga," Kane said. "He's an extremely good player, great person, very mature for his age [20] so it's great to see him doing well. He's managed to score a few goals so [the pair are] competing for the most goals this season!" He's not mentioned the European Golden Boot to Bellingham. "No, it's too early. If we get to March and he's still up there with me, I might have a few words!

"We want as many of our players as possible to be playing at the highest level. Bayern Munich and Real Madrid are two of the biggest clubs in the world. We've got great players who have played in big moments, big occasions, big games in our squad — not just for the national team but for their clubs. Me and Jude being at those clubs will only add to that. It adds another confidence to the team."



Henderson will make his first appearance for England since moving to Saudi

There are now four €100 million players in the England squad (although Jack Grealish withdrew injured). "I don't think it adds pressure. Of course with that price tag there is an expectation to perform," Kane added. "But Jack has done great. Me, Dec [Rice] and Jude have had good starts to our new clubs so far. We're level-headed people."

Kane said that chasing Alan Shearer's Premier League goalscoring record was never a factor in his thinking. "There was a lot of talk about it and the fact I was getting closer to it but I've never been anybody who's chased individual honours ahead of team awards," he said. "Ultimately it [his move] comes down to me to see how good I can be and I felt like I had to be playing Champions League football and competing for titles each year. Bayern Munich definitely gives me that.

"There's no hiding the fact that it [a trophy] is the one thing missing from my career at the moment and when you have got players in the squad who have won things you want those experiences as well."

He thinks of players he knows well, such as Manchester City's Kyle Walker and Jordan Henderson — when he was at Liverpool — becoming Champions League winners. "As a competitor, when the boys are playing the Champions League and I'm just sitting at home watching it, I'd be lying if I said there wasn't a part of me that hurt," Kane said. "Of course, I want them to do well but a part of me wants to have those experiences. With the other players having done that, I'm not sure 'jealous' is the right word, but it does motivate me to push myself towards some of those trophies."

Mention of Henderson turned talk to whether he might be booed by England fans or protesting gay rights groups for moving to Saudi Arabia. "Every England fan is entitled to their opinions," Kane added. "The majority of the England fans will be behind the team and once the game starts will be fully behind everyone. Jordan is a good friend of mine and a great person. He has got a job to do tomorrow night, as we all have and that's where his focus will be."

As for Gareth Southgate's future, amid talk of the manager walking away after the Euros, Kane said: "We don't know if it's going to be his last tournament or not. Only he can make the decision. All of us, we want to win it for ourselves and for the team, and we want to win it for the boss as well."

That would be a Hollywood ending.





Kane and Maguire push themselves in training; top left, from left to right, Eze, Saka, Nketiah and Tomori before the flight to Poland

'Maguire knows he must keep performing'

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

said. "But he [Henderson] is a very experienced professional. He is very mature at handling any situation. He's trained really well this week, the whole group have. I've been really pleased with the approach to everything.

"Harry knows where our support is. He knows he has to keep playing well for us and I think over the next few weeks given what's happening with their [Manchester United's] squad with injuries he may well have a lot more minutes for them as well.

"I haven't spoken to him about his situation this week, I have in the past few weeks. Obviously he got into the game the other day at a critical point, so as a defender that's not ideal, to come into a game at that situation, but of course he's a very experienced player."

Southgate also paid tribute to the development of Jude Bellingham since his move to Real Madrid.

"He has a huge maturity and he has a good emotional intelligence," Southgate said . "He has had to go into a dressing room and an interesting dynamic where some world-class players are there, and he is there to ultimately take their place. But knowing him, he will have approached them off the pitch with huge respect and will have gone into the training sessions and the games ready to compete and show what a good player he is.

"He found that balance brilliantly when he first joined us and I have no doubt that is what has happened while he has been there."



Yarmolenko struggled for goals when he played in England for West Ham

Three players

Martin Hardy
Wroclaw

VIKTOR TSYHANKOV

Tsyhankov is perhaps the biggest danger for Gareth Southgate and his side. The attacking midfielder moved to Girona from Dynamo Kiev in January and has adapted well to life in La Liga.

It is his form for Ukraine, however, that is more eye-catching. The 25-year-old has scored for his country in their past three internationals. In among

double triumph in Europe



EDDIE KEOGH/THE FA/GETTY IMAGES

How they stand

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
England	4	4	0	0	15	1	14	12
Ukraine	3	2	0	1	4	4	0	6
Italy	2	1	0	1	3	2	1	3
N Macedonia	3	1	0	2	4	11	-7	3
Malta	4	0	0	4	1	9	-8	0

who could cause makeshift defence problems

that run has been winning goals against both Malta and North Macedonia.

That run has taken his tally to 11 goals for his country in 47 games. Tsyhankov can also play out wide, which is where he was used in the late victory against Malta. He was one of two strikers against North Macedonia, as a sign of his versatility.

ANDRIY YARMOLENKO
Yarmolenko is 33 and much travelled but remains one of his country's key assets. There have been 45 goals in 112 games for Ukraine and on what is sure to be an emotionally charged night in Poland, he will provide relentless spirit.

By contrast, the centre forward endured a largely frustrating time in England with West Ham United, where Premier League goals were at a premium.

He has been a regular for his country, often used out wide, and Serhiy Rebrov may look to use his energy off the bench to cause problems down England's left, which could have an improvised feel in the absence of Luke Shaw.

ARTEM DOVBYK
A big and powerful centre forward may be just what Harry Maguire needs to find his feet after playing so little football, but Dovbyk could be a handful on the night for England. The 26-year-old, who moved to Girona in the summer and scored on his debut, has scored six times for this country and has been a target man for Rebrov.

Dovbyk is fast and technical and if he gets the service then could be a difficult proposition for an England defence that is particularly makeshift.

Colwill's big chance, quarterback Dunk, and deeper Foden

Paul Joyce assesses the options available to Southgate as he attempts to fine-tune his squad for Euro 2024

THE GOALKEEPER
There always seems to be noise surrounding Jordan Pickford when he reports for England, noise usually drummed up by those who do not often see him perform. Yet he is the only one of the three goalkeepers in Gareth Southgate's squad who appears guaranteed to play at club level. Aaron Ramsdale finds his place at Arsenal under scrutiny after the loan arrival of David Raya; Sam Johnstone will come under pressure at Crystal Palace after they bought Dean Henderson from Manchester United for £20 million.

England could benefit from the competition for selection, but as Pickford demonstrated with a stunning double save against Sheffield United last weekend he is in good form. England have to make sure of a place at Euro 2024, but no one believes that they will not take their place in Germany next summer and as yet there is no need for Southgate to contemplate a change at No1.

THE DEFENCE
A lack of depth in central defence has been an issue for England, although fresh options are beginning to emerge. The absence of John Stones is a blow, given his peerless recent performances, but it does present Southgate with the opportunity to find out more about some of his other players. Fresh from his first minutes of the season in Manchester United's defeat by Arsenal on Sunday, Harry Maguire seems likely to start against Ukraine in Poland today, but the identity of his defensive partner brings some intrigue. Crystal Palace's Marc Guéhi started alongside Maguire in the 4-0 stroll against Malta in June, and he will hope to collect a fifth cap in Wroclaw.

Lewis Dunk is back in the squad, having been forced to pull out of June's internationals due to injury, and the responsibility he has been given by Roberto De Zerbi at Brighton & Hove Albion make him a very modern player. His clubmate Adam Lallana likened Dunk's role to that of a quarterback, and for an England team that increasingly expects to dominate possession, such qualities will appeal to Southgate.

However, most interesting is the development of Levi Colwill, the young Chelsea centre back who spent last term at Brighton on loan. He was around the squad for experience in the summer but is in Wroclaw on merit. In between, Colwill was influential as the under-21s won the European Championship in Georgia and is highly regarded within the England set-up. Maguire has most to fear from the youngster's rise; given his situation at United, where he is down the pecking order, he could find himself usurped by Colwill in the countdown to the Euros.

THE MIDFIELD
Trent Alexander-Arnold stayed over at St George's Park on Monday before withdrawing from the squad because of the hamstring injury he suffered playing for Liverpool against Aston Villa. The fact that he made the trip knowing he would be sidelined for three weeks highlights his determination to cut it for England after several false starts.

One of the downsides of his absence is that Southgate will be unable to continue the experiment of the right back playing as a No 8. It also means another month will go by with England deprived of the opportunity to test Declan Rice, Jude Bellingham and Alexander-Arnold in the engine room; there are only three more camps after this before the Euros start. Theirs would appear to be a combination that boasts a bit of everything — aggression; dynamism; stardust — but needs to be moulded in practice.

It would be positive to see Phil Foden play in a deeper role given some of his performances for Manchester City, and Eberechi Eze will hope to add to the 20-minute run out he was handed against Malta. Otherwise, it is difficult to see what Southgate will learn from this camp in terms of his midfield, except for an insight into Jordan Henderson's fitness now that he is performing in the Saudi Pro League.

THE ATTACK
Patrick Bamford, Tammy Abraham, Dominic Calvert-Lewin, Ollie Watkins, Ivan Toney and Callum Wilson. When Eddie Nketiah, the latest striker to be called up by England, surveys that list, he should be aware that how he trains and acts around the camp will be crucial, given game time does not always come easily.

The Arsenal forward was something of a surprise inclusion and is on a bit of a hiding to nothing. Harry Kane reigns supreme, and the suspicion lingers that in the event of the England captain being absent, Marcus Rashford would fill his spot. There have also been suggestions that Southgate has considered playing Foden as a false nine. Toney's lengthy suspension has opened a window for Nketiah, but simply being called up does not mean a first senior cap will follow.

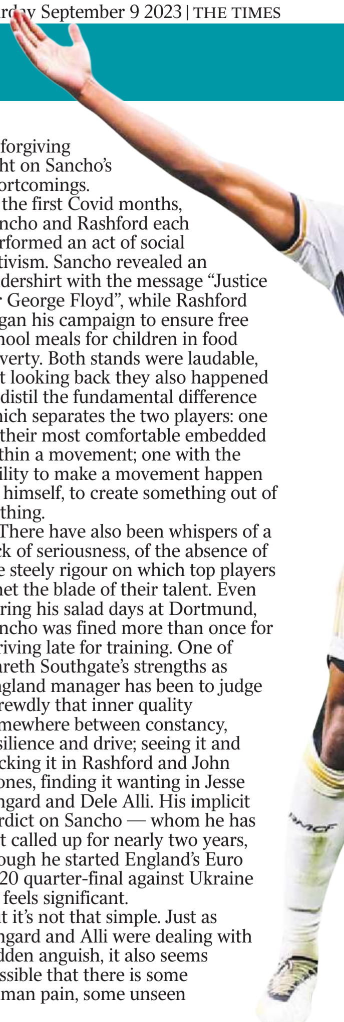
THE MANAGER
The contrast with how England ended last season compared with the one before could not have been more stark. Humbled 4-0 by Hungary in 2022, England beat North Macedonia 7-0 in June in a display brimming with aggression, control, and a clinical edge.

England have become deeply uncomfortable to play against, given their hunger to win the ball back. The mentality in the squad is to crave more. There is a new face behind the scenes in Chris Jones, the former Chelsea and Everton coach, who joined the senior set up following the departures of Ben Rosenblatt and Bryce Cavanagh.

Without Sancho the trailblazer, would Bellingham have soared?

James Gheerbrant





It's Jude Bellingham's world and we're just living in it. This is the truth of the new season, and this is the message that he semaphores with his now-familiar celebration pose: chest thrust out, arms levitating slowly into a "Y", palms open.

It is a gesture which straddles perfectly the line between welcome and dominion, and one which has been seen five times within the first four games of his Real Madrid career. He stands before his adoring new fans like a young pharaoh before the pyramids: faintly awed by the immensity of what he has inspired, but in supreme command of all he surveys. On his back, he wears the No 5 shirt of Zinédine Zidane, and in his mastery and ease of stature, he already feels worthy of its inheritance.

At Real, Bellingham is standing on the shoulders of giants. But on his path there, he walked in the footprints of a man now called a wastrel. When Bellingham moved to Borussia Dortmund in 2020, with one Championship season under his belt, he followed Jadon Sancho, then established as one of Europe's best young players. The season before, Sancho had scored 19 goals and assisted another 19 in the Bundesliga and Champions League.

Bellingham's journey has in common with Erling Haaland's the careful forethought of its plotting, and for those who guide it, as they weighed the overtures of Manchester United and Dortmund, the precedent of Sancho's success was reassuring. It also worked the other way: without Sancho, who's to say that Dortmund would have taken a punt on an English teenager without top-flight experience. You know that old domino-effect trope? Well, if the butterfly of the Manchester City academy doesn't spread his wings, perhaps there's no boy-king in a regal white shirt standing on the verge of superstardom.

It is poignant to observe their respective situations now. While Bellingham sets a skybound course towards the Ballon d'Or, Sancho is mouldering in desuetude and mistrust. Last weekend, he was left out of United's squad to face Arsenal, then accused Erik ten Hag of scapegoating him.

Though there have been glimmers of excellence, Sancho's time at Old Trafford can only be seen as a huge disappointment. When he left Dortmund, after three seasons as a first-teamer, only Lionel Messi and Thomas Müller in Europe's top leagues had more than his 41 assists over that span. In two and a bit Premier League seasons, he has mustered six assists, plus nine goals. That total of 15 is in arrears of Patson Daka and Douglas Luiz; less than half the tally of Harvey Barnes or Bryan Mbeumo. Sancho is still only 23 and has time on his side. But twilight falls early in the valley of the lost boys.

What happened? Football-wise, I think Sancho's downfall is an unintended consequence of his success. Even in his pomp, he was an unusual elite winger. At Dortmund, Sancho was tackled attempting a take-on about 2.5 times a game: a very high figure ranking him in the bottom five per cent of all wingers and attacking midfielders in Europe. His percentage of successful take-ons — basically, how often he got past his defender — was decent in the Bundesliga, but dropped much lower against superior opponents in the Champions League. In two of his three Champions League campaigns with Dortmund, Sancho didn't create a single chance from dribbles. Beating his man, fast-twitch sleight in tight spaces: that was never his forte.

Instead, he thrived on rhythm, combination play and the intuition of space. At Dortmund, his numbers for passes made and received — about 50 and 60 respectively per 90 minutes — were in the 98th or 99th percentile for wingers, and similarly high in the Champions League. He was constantly exchanging and interacting in a team of well-grooved dynamics: Raphaël Guerreiro overlapping him, Marco Reus and Bellingham making box runs in the half-spaces, Haaland tearing beyond the last line in transition.

Sancho's misfortune was not simply to join a dysfunctional club, but that his godly numbers convinced that club they were getting a plug-in superstar. He was never that player. It's interesting to compare him to Marcus Rashford, a different type of winger who has ridden out his own slump and whose resurgence throws an unforgiving light on Sancho's shortcomings.

In the first Covid months, Sancho and Rashford each performed an act of social activism. Sancho revealed an undershirt with the message "Justice for George Floyd", while Rashford began his campaign to ensure free school meals for children in food poverty. Both stands were laudable, but looking back they also happened to distil the fundamental difference which separates the two players: one at their most comfortable embedded within a movement; one with the ability to make a movement happen by himself, to create something out of nothing.

There have also been whispers of a lack of seriousness, of the absence of the steely rigour on which top players whet the blade of their talent. Even during his salad days at Dortmund, Sancho was fined more than once for arriving late for training. One of Gareth Southgate's strengths as England manager has been to judge shrewdly that inner quality somewhere between constancy, resilience and drive; seeing it and backing it in Rashford and John Stones, finding it wanting in Jesse Lingard and Dele Alli. His implicit verdict on Sancho — whom he has not called up for nearly two years, though he started England's Euro 2020 quarter-final against Ukraine — feels significant.

But it's not that simple. Just as Lingard and Alli were dealing with hidden anguish, it also seems possible that there is some human pain, some unseen



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Without Sancho, would Dortmund have taken a punt on Bellingham?

weight, behind Sancho's malaise. He missed three months of last season, addressing what Ten Hag intimated was not merely a physical issue, but one of mental wellbeing (a disclosure which, according to the Daily Mail's Sami Mokbel, did not have Sancho's consent).

It is also notable that the dividing line of his career, the point after which he wasn't the same player he had been before, coincides with summer 2021, when he not only moved clubs but also missed a penalty in the Euros final and was deluged with racial abuse.

It happens that most of the players who have endured this inhumanity — Rashford, Bukayo Saka, Raheem Sterling, Vinícius Junior — have somehow managed not to let it break their stride. But it would be neither surprising nor worthy of anything other than empathy if Sancho was more deeply affected. Athletes don't often speak freely about the impact of receiving racial abuse on social media, but a window on its effect was opened by the American tennis player Sloane Stephens. "This type of hate is so exhausting and never-ending," she wrote. "It really freaking sucks."

I hope Sancho finds the support he needs and makes it back to the levels he once occupied. There is a tempting reflex, in the case of failing players, to say they were never that good, that they were overrated. That isn't true of him. For now, rather than dwelling on the shadow cast by his struggles, I prefer to remember that the player who looks like England's next icon stepped into his light.

Van Dijk given longer ban

Paul Joyce
Northern Football Correspondent

The Liverpool captain Virgil van Dijk has been banned for an extra match and fined £100,000 after admitting that he used abusive and insulting words towards the referee John Brooks after his red card against Newcastle United.

The punishment was handed out by an independent regulatory commission and means that he will miss the game at Wolverhampton Wanderers on September 16. He has already served a one-match suspension.

Van Dijk was sent off for a foul on Alexander Isak in the 29th minute of last month's 2-1 win at St James' Park. The defender gestured at the Newcastle forward to get up before pointing in the face of the match official and appearing to use foul language when mouthing "f***ing joke". He then left the pitch slowly and directed his anger at the fourth official, Craig Pawson, before heading down the tunnel.

Van Dijk made representation to the commission, but a statement from the FA, which brought the charge, said he admitted that he had acted "in an improper manner and used abusive and insulting words".

The sanction comes amid a clampdown on player behaviour, which was implemented at the start of the season.

Howe attacker sent to prison

Martin Hardy

A Leeds United fan who pushed the Newcastle United head coach Eddie Howe in the chest during the Premier League match between the teams in May has been jailed for 12 weeks.

David Derbyshire ran on to the pitch at Elland Road during the 2-2 draw and confronted Howe in the Newcastle technical area before pushing him. He was then led away by security staff.

Derbyshire, 35, was yesterday sentenced at Leeds crown court to 12 weeks in jail after admitting entering the playing area without an excuse and assaulting Howe. He was also banned from all matches for at least six years. Footage was shown in court of the incident, which happened in the third minute of stoppage time at the end of the game. Derbyshire was seen repeatedly tapping Howe on the shoulder, before shoving him in the chest.

District judge Tim Capstick said to Derbyshire: "You chose to leave the stand and make your way along the players' area and essentially assault the Newcastle football manager, Mr Howe. Your behaviour had a risk of causing further violence or crowd trouble."

Derbyshire's barrister said that his client had lost his job and split up with his partner since his arrest, and had health issues.



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CHRIS POWELL THE BIG INTERVIEW

Former defender tells **Henry Winter** about his role on hit TV show and why this England squad reminds him of the 'Golden Generation' he played with





'I coached Saka, Bellingham … and Ted Lasso stars'

Chris Powell made a poignant return to St George's Park this week. The former England defender sat in the dressing room named after him. He watched young talents he helped coach, Jude Bellingham, Phil Foden and Bukayo Saka, training with England. Powell then had lunch with Gareth Southgate and his staff, and all the memories came flooding back.

Powell, 54, first got to know Southgate when they were both 16 at Crystal Palace before the left back went on to play for Southend United, Derby County, Charlton Athletic, West Ham United and Leicester City as well as winning five England caps, including a memorable debut against Spain in 2001 at Villa Park when he nutmegged Pep Guardiola. Three of his caps came alongside Southgate. "Sometimes I look at my journey and realise how much I've done," Powell says, reflectively.

"From when I was 16 and very fortunate to be taken on by Palace, I didn't realise the journey I'd embark on as a young player from south London, and 24 years later I retire at 40 and go straight into coaching and management. Along the way I've been in so many privileged positions, not by luck, maybe the odd time, but what I've done myself. It hits me now and then."

Powell managed Charlton, who he steered to the League One title in 2011-12, Huddersfield Town and Southend United. He's been a highly respected first-team coach with Derby County, ADO Den Haag in the Netherlands, briefly with his beloved Tottenham Hotspur, and on Southgate's staff for three years, ending after the World Cup in Qatar. Their lunch on Tuesday was their first real catch-up since then, partly because Powell was busy as head of coaching for Tottenham's under 17s to 21s, a role he recently vacated.



Powell joined England initially as part of an FA Elite Coach Placement Programme — "and a lot of hard work by Garth Crooks, Brendan Batson and Paul Elliott way back in 2015" — to have more black coaches embedded with the national teams. "It was a platform to show what we could do. It's been very powerful for me," he says. "I was only meant to do a year. My ability with the players and the staff to lend my knowledge and experience meant I ended up staying three years. I'm ever so proud of being part of the journey of Jude, Bukayo and Phil because they're humongous talents.

"Jude's quite unique in his knowledge and understanding of the game. What Birmingham City and his family particularly have done with Jude and his brother [Jobe] — his brother's equally as good from what I've seen — is he has a real persona about him that's not normal in a 20-year-old, or 18 when I first met him.

"Jude's absolutely fearless. Just look at what he's doing at Real Madrid. Fearless! It's not normal. But it is to him. He's just taken on every challenge as if it's normal. OK, it's the England national team, fine, I'll get on with it. It's the Euros, it's the World Cup, it's Dortmund, it's Real Madrid, I'm going for £100 million, OK! He gets on with it.

"Jude just looks at the game and understands what the coach and manager wants. It's the values he was taught growing up. His dad [Mark] was a good player. Apparently, I'm his dad's hero, bizarrely. His dad's from Essex and supported Southend United in the 1990s. That's when I played. His family are really, really good people. He is going to be a future England captain. He will be Madrid captain."

Powell sees similar fearlessness in Saka and Foden. "Bukayo's adaptable, likeable, intelligent, a quick decision-maker, good deliverer, scores goals now, plays off the right but drifts inside and connects. He's such a good player. Phil does exactly the same. He's so good."

Powell praises the academy coaching at Arsenal and Manchester City, as well as the managerial skills of Mikel Arteta and Pep Guardiola, in the emergence of Saka and Foden. "They develop talent and these guys [Saka and Foden] understood early what you do on and off the ball, where you should be when the ball's in certain areas," Powell says. "They get it and then their speed of thought and their decision-making is of a high calibre, elite level."

One of the reasons why Powell proved so popular with England players was the human touch. When Saka's penalty was saved by Italy's Gianluigi Donnarumma in the shoot-out as England lost the Euro 2020 final, Powell walked towards him. "There's quite a famous picture of myself standing with Bukayo after the final," Powell says. "I saw my son and daughter and I just thought they're the same age as Bukayo [19 at the time], and I stood with him because it was the right thing to do. I put my hand on his shoulder, just saying, 'I'm with you, I know what's coming.'"

Saka, as well as Jadon Sancho and Marcus Rashford, endured a toxic wave of racist abuse. "Sadly, I knew it was coming," Powell said. He himself suffered to his face as a player. "Now, you can't hear it but it's still there, there's still hate. Racism will sadly always be there, you will always have ignorant people."

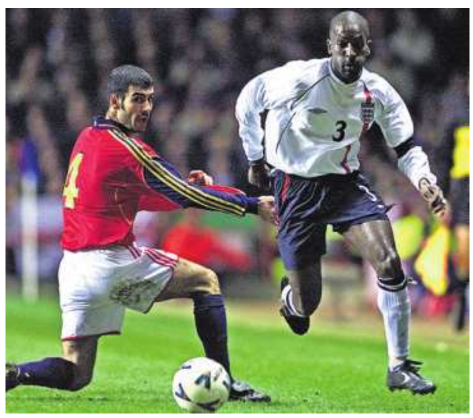
I ask Powell whether it is harder for a black player to represent England than a white player? "It has been over the years," he replies. "I can allude back to John Barnes and how a unique talent wasn't utilised in a way it would be now." Barnes was never fully appreciated playing for England.

Powell looks at Saka and admires how he rose above the abusers. "His character is brilliant," Powell adds. "You see with players like Jude, Bukayo and Phil when they come into England that they're just going to develop more and more and be mainstays for their country for a long time. The academy system has helped that. We've always had unique talents but we're producing more now on a regular basis. The younger England teams [under-19s and under-21s], are winning tournaments. I'd love us to produce even more. I think we will."

Powell's five caps came alongside members of the so-called "Golden Generation". He adds: "This generation has got similar traits [in quality] but there's more to choose from. I was in eight squads, and seeing Paul Scholes was a bit like seeing someone like Phil Foden. I played against Scholes many times but when I saw him up close, in training, I just thought, 'How have we developed a player like this, because he's unique?'

"He had vision and an understanding and a quality of pass and shot — obviously not the tackling as everyone knows — but he had everything else that [if] you put him in the Barcelona team of that time, he'd be fine. He'd improve them."

Now England have more depth of talent. The obvious pressing concern is finding a long-term successor to Harry Kane as centre forward. Mason



Powell once got the better of Guardiola while playing for England in 2001; more recently he was on TV show Ted Lasso, far left

Greenwood is not a consideration. Where is the English Evan Ferguson?

"Good point," Powell says. "I think that player's out there but he has to go through the same pathway and development like Harry did, whether that's loans and then breaking into the team. You just hope that they are given the time and platform to show that they're good enough to be the heir apparent to Harry.

"Listen, Harry's not going anywhere soon. Looking at Harry he's going to play for the next ten years knowing his mentality. I'm sad to see him go [to Bayern Munich] in many ways. He enriched not only Tottenham Hotspur but the Premier League. But there comes a point where maybe he felt, 'I need to now test myself.'"

Powell is a Spurs fan — "Steve Archibald was my first hero" — and has always marvelled at Kane, even when working with him at Spurs. "His

TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER BRADLEY ORMESHER



understanding of where to be, where the spaces are, where the spaces are for other players when he drops deep… but then equally when the play's being built up in wide areas his timing of when to run, you can't coach that," he says.

Powell loved being at his boyhood club. "It was my decision to leave Spurs. I went to the club I've always loved, working in the academy. When [José] Mourinho leaves, we're in the League Cup final against City [in 2021] and I'm desperate to get a ticket because I've been to most finals, but I couldn't get a ticket for love nor money. Ryan [Mason] takes over, myself and Nigel Gibbs help him and I'm sitting on the bench for the final, a game I would have paid X amount of money to get a ticket for!"

He's looking for a role back in the game. "The hunger's even more now," he says. "I want to stay in the game I love in whatever role."

Powell's still on our screens because of his involvement with the *Ted Lasso* series. "I got a phone call from an agent who said a script's landed on my desk about an American taking over a Premier League team and they need someone to coach the 'SAs', the support actors, you can't call them extras now. I went to Hayes & Yeading — Warner Bros studios are across the road — and met the director. He said just have a look at the players and tell me what you think. I coached 15-20 players, they weren't very good."

> **"This generation has got similar traits but there's more to choose from"**

Powell was then asked to do co-commentary on AFC Richmond games for the series alongside Arlo White. "I told them, 'I'm not an actor'. 'You'll be fine!' they said. I did season one and during that time I got the England role and the role at Spurs. They said, 'We'll work around you'. I did three seasons."

It's time for the real world, and Powell's off to lunch with Southgate. "He's very emotionally astute. He understands people, understands players. He and the staff want to win so much. We were very close in the Euros, the better team against France [in their quarter-final defeat in Qatar]. It's now about getting over the line at Euro 2024 and I feel we will."

Cardiac arrests, defibrillator by ribs – and back to his best

After several operations, Charlie Wyke gave it one last go. **Paul Joyce** explains how the Wigan forward is now thriving

Not for the first time, Charlie Wyke has had to reassess his ambitions. A flurry of goals in Sky Bet League One for Wigan Athletic, which have showcased his poacher's instinct and prowess in the air, have prompted the forward to think again about what the campaign may hold in store.

"If you had asked me six weeks ago, my aim would probably have been to play as many games as I can," Wyke says. "But now it is about scoring as many goals as I can. I have got the hunger back. Everyone seems to be talking about the football side of things again which is refreshing."

Before that, and for the best part of 18 months, Wyke was known less for the striking attributes that have brought him five goals in seven appearances, but as the player who suffered a cardiac arrest on the training pitch and whose career was in jeopardy.

There were plenty of people who told him to pack it in when, in November 2021, he complained of feeling dizzy and collapsed into the arms of the then-Wigan manager Leam Richardson, who performed CPR on him.

When he suffered another scare four months later, complicating an already uncertain comeback, few believed that he would play again. Yet, speaking at Wigan's training ground, Wyke, 30, says that he feels like the player who scored 31 goals for Sunderland in 2020-21 in the third tier.

The physical legacy of the ordeal he has been through is shown by the defibrillator that protrudes from under his skin by his ribcage and is attached to a heart-rate monitor that sits at the front of his chest. That monitor is connected by Bluetooth to his mobile phone and sends an hourly message to his cardiologist, Dr Rob Cooper, at Liverpool's Broadgreen Hospital.

Any dangerous beats are flagged up while, at night, another monitor by his bed sends over a more detailed description of his heart rhythms. Those measures provide reassurance and, together with a tweak in his beta-blocker medication, Wyke has been able to hit the ground running.

"At the start of the season, we did a really hard run in training," he says. "We had a full session and, at the end of it, we ran the width of the box, which was seven seconds. Then seven seconds back, 14 to 15 seconds rest, and we did that eight times. Then straight into games. And when the ball came to me, I thought, 'I'm dizzy here.' When I sent the result off, it was absolutely fine.

"It was just me thinking the worst and, for me, that was a big step going forward because I knew I was OK. That session was probably one of the hardest things we would do, but I came through it."

For the doubts to dissipate represents another sign of how far Wyke has come. He had complained of feeling dizzy and underwent numerous tests in the weeks before his first cardiac arrest when the swift action of Richardson and also the Wigan club doctor, Jonathan Tobin, helped to save Wyke's life.

Nine years earlier, Tobin, then at Bolton Wanderers, had been on hand when Fabrice Muamba collapsed in a game against Tottenham Hotspur. Muamba's heart stopped beating for 78 minutes. Tobin put Wyke in touch with Muamba during his rehabilitation and the advice that came back was unequivocal.

"Obviously his was a lot worse than mine, but he was saying it is not worth trying to come back," recalls Wyke, whose partner, Chelsea, is due to give birth on Christmas Day and who already has a son, Alfie.

"He said, 'You have a family, put all your energy into your family'. But, mentally, if I hadn't tried to come back it would have been ten times' worse."

The sight of Christian Eriksen resuming his career after suffering a cardiac arrest while playing for Denmark at Euro 2020 was important. While the pair have never spoken, Eriksen's progress proved a source of inspiration to Wyke.

Indeed, the sense of hesitancy intensified when he suffered a second arrest. Then, he was helped off the training pitch at Wigan in tears and believed his career was over.

"I was crying my eyes out," he says. "In my head I was like, 'That's me done, I am not even going to try to come back.'

"It was just my family who convinced me, really. They reminded me how the medication had changed and that there had been no blips in the monitor for a few months. They said, 'So why don't you give it one last shot?' That is when I came back in pre-season and I felt really good. If anything had happened during pre-season that would have been me done, 100 per cent."

In total, there have been six operations, including two to burn scar tissue off his heart and one in which surgeons operated through his groin to repair a hole in his heart. A protective vest akin to a giant shin pad also goes over the defibrillator when he is playing and fits so snugly that Wyke now forgets he is even wearing it.

Wyke has also had Zoom sessions with a psychologist and one thing that becomes clear when speaking to him is that, despite everything, he can be incredibly hard on himself. When he eventually pulled on a first-team shirt again last August, the fact that neither the goals nor appearances flowed as he wished left him tortured. It also came in a period when Wigan faced the threat of liquidation and the players were not paid.

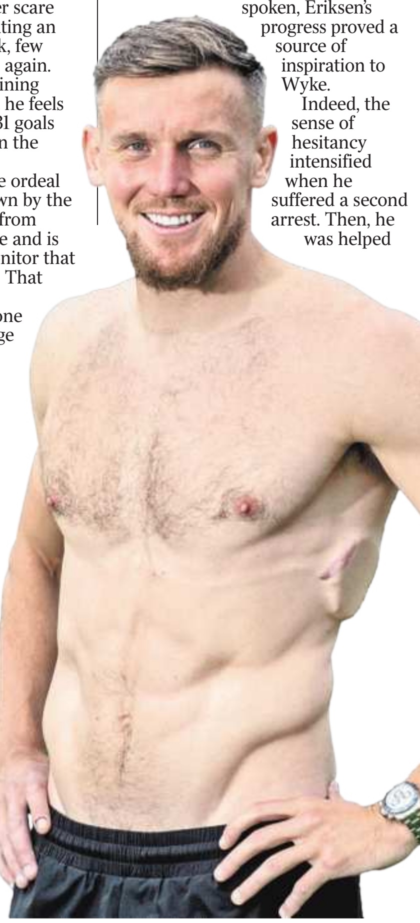
It is only now he views that turbulent spell, in which the club started the campaign on minus-eight points, with a greater sense of perspective.

"I wasn't even scoring in training," Wyke says. "To people on the outside that might not be a big thing, but for a striker when you score goals in training it puts confidence in you. I cannot really pinpoint what happened last season. If you have eight, nine months out, for anyone it is hard, never mind what I have been through, and [with] the medication.

"Looking back now, I was nowhere near it — physically and mentally. I wanted it to be smooth sailing and it was never going to be. I always go back to when I first came back and I just kept saying, 'Thank you', to the manager [Richardson]. I didn't know how to act around him. He said, 'Listen, let's not talk about it any more. It's not Charlie Wyke who has had a cardiac arrest, it is Charlie Wyke my No 9'. That was a big change for me."

While Wyke has found in Shaun Maloney, Wigan's manager, another advocate of his talents, the bond with Richardson — and Tobin — is unlike anything else he has forged in football.

"It is unique for me," he says. "I am getting married next summer so I will invite him [Richardson] to the wedding and the doctor, too. I think I have proved a lot of people wrong. I have had so many people saying, 'Just finish, you will never get back to the levels you were [at]'. That is one of the most pleasing things for me."



Wyke's defibrillator is attached to a monitor at the front of his chest

Conway and Mitchell hand



Steve James

England v New Zealand

Sophia Gardens (New Zealand won toss): New Zealand win by eight wickets

The lessons from Devon Conway and Daryl Mitchell were simple, definitive and utterly chastening for England. The two New Zealand batsmen played the innings that no England player could, putting on a stunningly emphatic unbeaten partnership of 180 to usher their side to the simplest of victories, with 26 balls remaining.

Both were playing their first one-day internationals against England, and the left-handed Conway, all timing and composure, made 111 while the more aggressive right-handed Mitchell smashed 118, with seven sixes.

England could only manage four half-centuries from Dawid Malan, Ben Stokes, Jos Buttler and Liam Livingstone, but at the halfway stage their total of 291 for six had actually looked above par on a pitch very much like those that will be encountered in India at the World Cup next month; a slow surface that took turn for the spinners and required some guile and variation from the seamers.

The England debrief for this match could easily descend into one of those batsmen/bowlers arguments, because the conditions did seem much trickier for England's batsmen. Maybe New Zealand knew something England did not in inserting the hosts having won the toss but, as the clouds and then darkness rolled in, they certainly had none of the difficulties England had.

The more relevant truth, though, is that, unlike the rugby match in Paris the Kiwis were obviously eager to watch, this was only a practice match, with neither side being at full strength.

New Zealand were missing Trent Boult, Mitchell Santner and Kane Williamson, while England were without Moeen Ali, Mark Wood and Sam Curran, and their opening batsmen were the surprising combination of Malan and Harry Brook; the former replacing the rested Jonny Bairstow, who tweaked a shoulder in the final T20 international at Trent Bridge, and the latter receiving a late summons when Jason Roy suffered a back spasm.

They put on a healthy 80 in 15 overs, having made 50 in the powerplay, with the left-handed Malan making the running as Brook struggled to find his touch. Malan had made 54 from 53 balls when he was dismissed in both bizarre and rather sloppy fashion in left-arm spinner Rachin Ravindra's first over. As Malan pushed forward the ball hit pad then elbow before deflecting onto the stumps.

It was a disappointing end after he had played so well, hitting nine fours mostly through the off side, with the one through extra cover to greet Kyle Jamieson's first ball probably the most emphatic and eye-catching.

Four balls later without a run added to the total Brook was gone too, gloving a superb bouncer from Lockie Ferguson behind. His 25 from 41 balls had not marked him out as an obvious opener, for sure.

Stokes could have gone first ball, fending another bouncer just over backward point, and Joe Root was relieved to have inside-edged a ball from Ravindra, resulting in a not-out leg-before decision that New Zealand still felt compelled to review.

Root did not last much longer, though, soon top-edging a slog-sweep off Ravindra, a rather desperate shot that revealed everything about his failure to find any sort of timing. He just could not find the singles he usually does.

Stokes and Buttler, on his 33rd birthday, appeared to read the conditions superbly, putting on 88 in 104 balls, but Conway and Mitchell later proved otherwise. Stokes was never particularly fluent but he was still mightily effective before passing fifty with a pulled six off Ravindra. Two balls later, however, he slapped the same bowler off the back foot to extra cover. Ravindra easily finished as New Zealand's best bowler with three for 48 from his 10 overs.

An ebullient Livingstone struck Jamieson for three successive sixes in the 43rd over, and his half-century came off just 39 balls, but he soon skied Tim Southee to long-on, having taken the bulk of the strike and therefore having done most of the scoring in a partnership of 77 from 59 balls with Buttler.

Two balls later another slower ball accounted for the captain, who had clearly lost some of his rhythm. But before that he had also clearly played the most classy knock of the innings, making 72 from 68 balls, with two sixes, both off Ravindra: the first, early on, straight down the ground off the front foot; the second, much later, off the back foot over long-on.

David Willey made a perky unbeaten 21 from 11 balls, clubbing the last ball of the innings from Southee for six, but Conway and Will Young made a fine start for the visitors, as rusty left-armer Reece Topley was especially expensive, conceding 25 from his first two overs.

New Zealand had reached 61 without loss by the end of their powerplay, but the immediate introduction outside the fielding restrictions of Adil Rashid brought reward as Young was bowled by a drifting, ripping leg spinner. Sadly for Rashid it all went downhill after that.

Root's spin was used before Livingstone's, and ODI debutant Gus Atkinson — presented with his cap by Stuart Broad before play — was given an opportunity, but Conway passed 50 off 57 balls before Willey returned after a wayward first spell (it was the first time he had not opened the bowling in an ODI since debut in 2015) to have Henry Nicholls caught behind.

Rashid left the field having had cramp after three overs, not bowling again until the 37th over, and then Mitchell dismissively hoisted his first ball back for six. By the end he was hitting him where he wanted.

Mitchell is a magnificently clean striker of a ball, as he also demonstrated vividly when striking sixes off Atkinson towards the River Taff and off Livingstone towards the Cathedral Road End.

He reached 50 off 54 balls courtesy of a drop at mid-wicket by Chris Woakes off a Livingstone long hop, before Conway went to his fourth ODI century off 115 balls. Mitchell's was also his fourth hundred in this format, coming off 84 balls, and Conway finished it off with a six off Livingstone. It was an absolute hiding.

SCARRED FLINTOFF SEEN FOR FIRST TIME

Former England star pictured coaching at Sophia Gardens after Top Gear crash

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Mitchell goes on the attack to launch one of his seven sixes as he and Conway,

Brook fails to make most of audition as an opener

Elizabeth Ammon

With Jason Roy missing the series opener due to a back spasm and Jonny Bairstow rested because of a painful shoulder, England took the opportunity to look at a different batting order. England have only three more matches before they have to name their final World Cup squad of 15 on September 28 and are keen to include Harry Brook. That means leaving out one of the already named squad and this series against New Zealand could be seen as a shoot-out between Roy, Dawid Malan, Liam Livingstone and Brook for three places. England may, however, be tempted to omit one of the six seam bowlers they have named.

HARRY BROOK

Having been omitted from the original provisional World Cup squad, Brook was a last-minute addition to the squad for this series. He was given a new role at the top of the order but the slow pitch in Cardiff limited his ability to play expansively. His 25 from 41 balls was not a selection-securing innings. With an already packed and experienced middle order, England learned little from this experiment.

DAWID MALAN

Malan struggled in the recent T20 series against New Zealand but his record in ODIs is impressive and in the past year has made four centuries, averaging more than 60. Unlike Roy, Malan is more versatile in where he can bat in the order. Given his recent record, it is unlikely he will lose his place in the squad, although there remain some concerns about his record against spin, which will be relevant in India. The nature of his dismissal yesterday will not have put to bed those concerns. He was dismissed two balls into left-arm spinner Rachin Ravindra's opening spell, planting his front foot on the line of off-stump. He could have been given out lbw had the ball not richoted onto his elbow and into the stumps.

BEN STOKES

Stokes marked his 50-over comeback with a defiant half-century on the slow surface. Despite not having played an ODI since July 2022, having announced his retirement from the format last year, he slotted straight back into the fold. There is no question that England are better with him than without him even if he cannot bowl.

LIAM LIVINGSTONE

The Lancashire all-rounder staked his claim to remain in the squad with 52 off 40 balls. Despite the turgid pitch, he was able to free his arms with his long levers to bludgeon three fours and three consecutive sixes off Kyle Jamieson.

After this first match, England are probably not much clearer on how they will solve the Brook inclusion issue, although if Roy's back continues to keep him out of the action, the problem may solve itself. The final ODI is on September 15, allowing the selectors two weeks after that to discuss their options.



Brook failed to impose himself at the top of the order with 25 off 41 balls

England lesson

GRAHAM HUNT/PROSPORTS/SHUTTERSTOCK



inset, made light work of England's 291 for six – winning with 26 balls to spare

Scoreboard

ENGLAND	R	B	M
H C Brook c Latham b Ferguson	**25**	41	69
D J Malan b Ravindra	**54**	53	64
J E Root c Mitchell b Ravindra	**6**	15	25
B A Stokes c Nicholls b Ravindra	**52**	69	87
***†J C Buttler** c Ferguson b Southee	**72**	68	112
L S Livingstone c Mitchell b Southee	**52**	40	42
C R Woakes not out	**4**	4	12
D J Willey not out	**21**	11	9
Extras (w 4, nb 1)	**5**		
TOTAL (6 wkts, 50 overs)	**291**		

A U Rashid, A A P Atkinson and R J W Topley did not bat.
Fall of wickets: 1-80, 2-80, 3-101, 4-189, 5-266, 6-267
Bowling: Southee 10-0-71-2; Henry 10-0-45-0; Jamieson 7-0-61-0; Ferguson 9-0-50-1; Ravindra 10-0-48-3; Phillips 4-0-16-0

NEW ZEALAND	R	B	M
D P Conway not out	**111**	121	177
W A Young b Rashid	**29**	33	45
H M Nicholls c Buttler b Willey	**26**	30	34
D J Mitchell not out	**118**	91	94
Extras (lb 2, w 10, nb 1)	**13**		
TOTAL (2 wkts, 45.4 overs)	**297**		

*†T W M Latham, G D Phillips, R Ravindra, K A Jamieson, T G Southee, M J Henry and L H Ferguson did not bat.
Fall of wickets: 1-61, 2-117.
Bowling: Woakes 7-1-27-0; Topley 6-0-47-0; Willey 6-0-32-1; Rashid 8-0-70-1; Root 4-0-25-0; Atkinson 7-0-47-0; Livingstone 7.4-0-47-0.

Umpires A Wharf (Eng) & P Reiffel (Aus).
TV Umpire A Holdstock (SA)
Man of the match D Conway (NZ)

Series details
First ODI New Zealand beat England by eight wickets, *Cardiff*
Second Sept 10, *Southampton.*
Third Sept 13, *Kia Oval.*
Fourth Sept 15, *Lord's.*

Sussex in the dark over missing Robinson

Elizabeth Ammon

Ollie Robinson could miss the rest of the English season and may not bowl in a competitive match before England's Test tour to India early next year.

Sussex had been expecting their senior bowler to be available for the County Championship run-in after being rested throughout August but Paul Farbrace, the county's head coach and Robinson's stepfather, admitted that they have not seen him since before the Ashes.

Robinson, 29, most recently played in the third Ashes Test at Headingley in July, where he managed only 11.2 overs before succumbing to a back spasm. Despite insisting that he was fully fit before the fourth Test at Old Trafford, he was not selected again in the series. Sussex have been told that the best-case scenario would be Robinson returning for the last two matches of the season but are unclear on whether he has even returned to bowling.

"We haven't seen him since the Ashes finished," Farbrace said. "He hasn't started bowling yet — I think England decided they wanted him to do some work on his fitness. They saw a window during August to do some fitness work and they clearly have a longer-term plan for him but we haven't seen him at the club since he went off to the Ashes in May. We don't know whether he is bowling at the moment, we assume not, but we were told he would be available for the last two games, possibly three.

"He is an England player and Rob Key [the ECB's managing director of men's cricket] was very clear he wouldn't now be available until maybe the last two games of the season. It would be good to see if he is actually bowling so we know whether he will be able to bowl in those two games."

Robinson is on an ECB central contract so it is England, who determine his fitness and work programmes. Sussex, though, are clearly frustrated by the lack of communication from one of their senior professionals.

England's management team wanted him to spend August having a break and it is understood that he has been undergoing some gym work. He spent the last week of August in Mallorca with his partner, Mia Baker, a golfer.

'Franchise cricket? I'd rather a county title with Surrey'

Test star Kemar Roach, prizes being involved in 'special era' at county over lucrative T20 deal, writes **Mark Baldwin**

Kemar Roach is in no doubt about where he would rather be this month — and it's not the Caribbean Premier League in his native West Indies. "That's not a very friendly tournament for us bowlers," the Barbados paceman with 79 Test caps says, laughing. "No, playing for Surrey and trying to win another County Championship is definitely where I want to be."

That perhaps is not a comment you would hear from many world-class cricketers these days, because the rapid growth of the white-ball game offers new riches for players and corporate partners alike, and also causes havoc with domestic and international schedules. Yet Roach, whose career has also taken him to the Indian Premier League and Australia's Big Bash, as well as teams in West Indian franchise cricket, is clear about what is right for him.

"Something special is really happening at Surrey and I'm excited to be a part of what feels like being an era of success," he says. "I am a red-ball cricketer, first and foremost, and coming back here again gives me real purpose. I love it at this club and I want to continue to do as well as I can for Surrey and to be a part of things at the Oval for as long as possible into the future."

Roach, who turned 35 in June, is in his fourth stint as an overseas player at Surrey. His new-ball partnership with Dan Worrall, the Melbourne-born seamer who is 32 and qualifies for England next year, is a meeting of minds on and off the field.

"I didn't know 'Franky' until he came to Surrey at the start of last season but we are already firm friends," Roach says. "He has been a fantastic signing, and his record and his experience speaks for itself. We have just hit it off as people and fellow fast bowlers, and the partnership we are building is just one of the many reasons I absolutely love being at Surrey.

"Being part of such a tremendous fast-bowling group here is another great thing. I am still learning and the way we all help each other as a group — out there in the middle and off the pitch — is brilliant.

"Jordan Clark is one of the best first-change bowlers in county cricket and then we also have Jamie Overton and our two exceptional youngsters in Gus Atkinson and Tom Lawes, who is another huge talent for his age."

Roach also played earlier in the summer alongside Sean Abbott, the Australia fast-bowling all-rounder and the final member of a seven-strong pace pack that has swept all before it in Surrey's bid for back-to-back championships and a third title in six years.

Sam Curran, the England all-rounder, has appeared in only one championship fixture because of international and IPL games; Reece Topley and Chris Jordan, these days, are white-ball specialists with England and have franchise commitments of their own. Tom Curran has decided to concentrate on limited-overs cricket. However, Surrey have set the pace in Division One with eight wins from 12 matches, and they can conceivably be caught only by second-placed Essex. Their success has been spearheaded by their seven speedsters: Clark, Worrall, Abbott, Lawes, Roach, Atkinson and Overton.

Surrey and Essex sit out the next round of championship games, which start on Sunday, before they both play Northamptonshire and Hampshire in their final fixtures. As in the majority of their four-day matches this season, Surrey are set to select five frontline fast bowlers for each of their last two games — the first against Northamptonshire at the Oval and then away to Hampshire at the Ageas Bowl — and Roach cannot wait.

A veteran of more than 300 matches globally across all formats — a number that includes 95 ODI and 11 T20 appearances for West Indies — Roach took five wickets on his return for Surrey in the trouncing of Warwickshire by an innings and 97 runs this week. In six championship games this summer, he has taken his overall first-class wicket tally for the county to 70 in 18 games at an average of 24.02.

There are likely to be many more to come and Roach adds: "Championship cricket here is hard cricket, you have to put the effort in to reap any reward, but that is what I play for. I remember saying to Hashim Amla [the great South Africa batsman who played alongside Roach at Surrey in 2021 and 2022] that I have never been in a better cricketing atmosphere than the one we have at the Oval.

"I look forward to every day I play for Surrey, and the job Alec Stewart and Gareth Batty have done heading up the management has been tremendous. Also, having Azhar Mahmood [the former Pakistan and Surrey all-rounder] as bowling coach is another real boost to me and all the other bowlers. He understands cricket in England, and the most important message has been not to waste the first 20 balls or so you have with the new ball.

"Everything is in place for the club to enjoy a sustained period of success, both in the quality and strength in depth of the playing staff and in the way our players are managed, coached and prepared. Surrey is a second home."



Roach is targeting a second title in two years, and for Surrey a third in six

‘I bribed son with ice cream to play – now he is in Ryder Cup’

Tom Kershaw speaks to those who know Ludvig Aberg – and not one has been surprised by his rapid rise to top

A screeching alarm and bolted door are all that distinguish the dingy entrance to Swedish golf's great talent factory. A motion sensor triggers the light switch inside the squat sports hall, illuminating a row of artificial grass matts pointed into cricket nets, each scattered with balls and besieged by scratches and scuff marks. The long, speckled mirrors offer an illusion of space but there is little to spare, with clubs stored underneath disused showers, while the floor in a small changing room has been layered with felt and converted into a putting green.

Filbornaskolan, a sports-specialised high school in Helsingborg, is one of the most prestigious in Sweden, but the wet winters and truncated daylight hours leave the golfers with little option but to spend months training indoors. “I like it because it's rough,” says Hans Larsson, the head golf coach. “The kids have access to all the technology they need, but it's not a fancy place. If it was public, they'd probably tear it down.”

The facility is available to the school's golf students around the clock, with the alarm beeping on an hourly basis to jog the minds of those who become lost in swing thoughts late at night. It has had less use over a warm Swedish summer, but the cracked ink on an old whiteboard reveals the decorated list of alumni. Three members of Europe's Solheim Cup team — Maja Stark, Linn Grant and Madelene Sagstrom — are graduates, while the records preserved at the top of cluttered charts almost all belong to Ludvig Aberg, who still returns to practise in the sports hall where he honed the swing that has propelled him to a Ryder Cup captain's pick.

“The feel he has for the place is more important to him than how it looks,” says Larsson, who remains Aberg's swing coach. “He loves it. He comes in and watches the other players and competes like he's back in school.”

It has been “Ludvig-mania” on the school's campus since Aberg's breakthrough win at the European Masters last week, which came in just his ninth event as a professional. Luke Donald described him as a “superstar”, while comparisons with Rory McIlroy have been a regular occurrence. “The comparisons are very real,” says Larsson. “During his final year in school, I knew he would be a great player. He's as good a ball-striker as anyone, and I don't see him having any weaknesses because the technical, physical and mental parts are so good. We're looking for him to go to the top spots in the world.”



A heady cocktail of excitement and pressure ought to be overwhelming, but Aberg, 23, is an almost unusually calm, laid-back character. “He has an ability to switch off when he's away from the course and not even think about golf,” Johan Ungesson, his father, says. It is a skill inherited by birthright in Eslov, the small town about 30 miles from Helsingborg where Aberg was raised. The late television presenter, Lasse Holmqvist, famously referred to it as the “most boring city in Sweden” and many of its streets are deserted on a midweek morning, apart from a pair of chainsmokers idling outside the train station. It is a place that teaches its children to be content without constant entertainment, but one of its main attractions is the golf club.

“This is where it all started,” Ungesson says, standing in the same spot on the range where he first brought Aberg as a five-year-old. “Golf wasn't his favourite sport. He loved soccer, so I used to bribe him with ice cream to come with me to the golf course. It cost me a lot but it was worth it. I never pushed him or wanted him to become a professional. I just wanted him out here playing with me because it's quality time.”

Aberg became more enthused after he joined one of the training groups for juniors, many of whom would cycle to the course after school. His first coach was Tomas Setterhill, the club professional, who remembers Aberg as “always being among friends but not the centre of attention”. “He was more quiet but he was a fast learner,” he says. “He had a very natural swing, he had to learn the fundamentals, but it was easy for him.”

After Aberg's victory in Switzerland last week, Ungesson found himself scrolling nostalgically through the old photos and videos on his phone. It acts like a timeline in the form of trophies, starting small and tacky and then evolving in size and turning silver. “He practised more than most but he wasn't extreme,” Setterhill says. “His friends were quite good so they played and had fun. It wasn't like he was grinding.”

Aberg was among the best-ranked juniors in Sweden for his age when he was accepted into Filbornaskolan, but it wasn't a given that he would later stand out. “He was one of the most relaxed people, you had to push him a little bit like, ‘Come on, let's go’ in the first two years,” says Larsson, who implemented a clear set of rules for all players, who needed to help clean the sports hall once a week and were barred from training if they underperformed in their academic studies.

Aberg was “mature for his age and never in trouble”, but Larsson noticed his dedication improve markedly during his third year, when many students would instead take the short ferry to



Clockwise from above: Larsson shows the facilities where Aberg honed his swing; the 23-year-old at the European Masters; his early life, where he preferred football to golf; his first coach, Setterhill, left, with his father, Johan Ungesson





Why Benn is in a hurry to revive Eubank Jr bout –

Boxing
Matt Lawton
Chief Sports Correspondent

The much-anticipated bout between Conor Benn and Chris Eubank Jr, which was cancelled last year because of Benn's two positive drugs tests, looks set to be rescheduled, with December 9 identified as a possible date by Eddie Hearn, Benn's promoter.

The fight is likely to be worth considerably more than the £25 million it was reportedly valued at last time, before it was cancelled at short notice in October. After all, nothing beats a doping controversy for adding further spice to a sporting event already fuelled by the fierce rivalry that existed between their once formidable fathers.

Benn has spent more than £400,000 on legal fees in the past year, with the whole episode, as he revealed in an interview with The Times, taking him to the brink of suicide. But if he does fight Eubank Jr, Benn will climb into the ring with his earning power boosted significantly by the storm that erupted after news broke of those two tests.

Clearly, this is partly what is motivating Hearn. He says that he is talking to the Eubank camp, as well as potential hosts should the British Boxing Board of Control (BBBoC) not provide a licence, with the hope of staging the catchweight fight this side of Christmas. Abu Dhabi is one location under consideration.

Benn, 26, has not fought since April last year and he again has to gain weight to meet the taller, naturally heavier Eubank somewhere in the middle; probably closer to 160lb on this occasion, the limit having been set at 155lb in October.

Some of those close to Benn would prefer him to face lesser opposition in the United States this month, delaying Eubank, 33, until next year. But there are forces at play that appear to be creating a sense of urgency, not least the continuing case with UK Anti-Doping (Ukad).

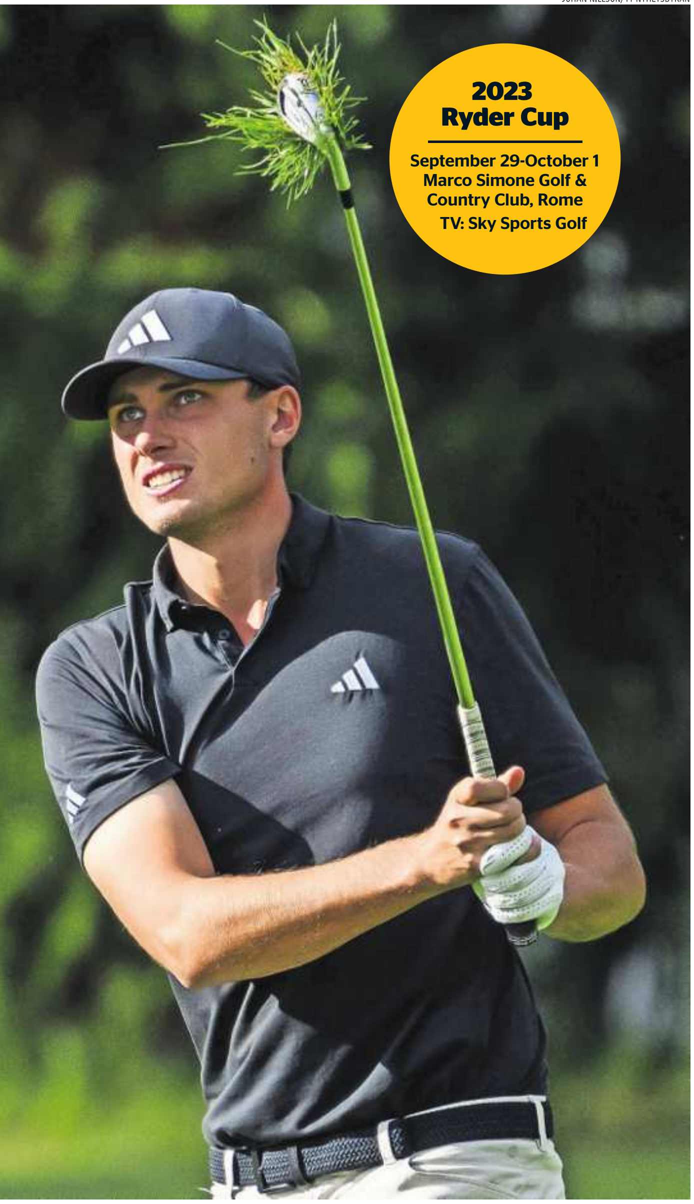
In July, Ukad confirmed that Benn's provisional suspension had been lifted after a ruling made by a national anti-doping panel. This, some believed, was because the panel had ruled that Benn did not fall under Ukad's jurisdiction because he was not licensed by the BBBoC at the time of the tests, which were conducted by the Voluntary Anti-Doping Agency (Vada) on behalf of the World Boxing Council.

Sources, however, have told The



The 26-year-old Benn last fought in April last year but could return imminently

JOHAN NILLSON/TT NYHETSBYRAN





Denmark, where the legal drinking age is 16 years old.

"He started taking care of his body, doing better physical preparation work, taking responsibility in his own time," Larsson says. "By his last year, he was really standing out. His average was the other kids' best numbers and he was shooting 61s and 62s for the national team, that's not common." Aberg still joins in on the old drills and tests on his return to the sports hall, as he did this winter before the Dubai Desert Classic. "The players at college come back and set the targets for new players to try and beat them. That's kind of what we do. They can say 'Ludvig did that'."

It was in Dubai that Edoardo Molinari, a vice-captain in Rome, requested to play with Aberg over the first two rounds. He was already the world No1 amateur, with Aberg's statistics at Texas Tech University assuring he was ready to compete with the best, but Molinari was still struck by his potential. "I have never seen someone drive it like that ever before," he said.

Since turning professional in June, Aberg has averaged 317 yards off the tee and gained more strokes than any other player on the PGA Tour, but that was hardly a surprise to Larsson, who also coached the Swedish former Ryder Cup winner, Robert Karlsson. After Aberg won the Katrineholm Open as an amateur in 2020, Karlsson, the tournament's host, then said during the trophy presentation that he had been studying footage of the 20-year-old's driving to improve his own game.

Aberg sent annotated reports and statistics back to Larsson after every college tournament at Texas Tech. A tendency to misread putts was eradicated during a phenomenal final year when he began using the AimPoint technique and he became the first player since Jon Rahm to win the Ben Hogan Award, which is given to the best player in college golf, twice. There are inevitably several areas on which he can still improve, with wedge play a particular focus, but few prospects have been considered quite so polished.

"He has the potential to become one of the greats," says Peter Hanson, another Swedish former Ryder Cup winner, who accompanies Aberg to tournaments and helps coach him when Larsson is at the school. "The way he swings the golf club is second to none, it's one of the best I've seen, and Hans has laid that foundation. Ludvig can go on the first tee at the Ryder Cup and trust his swing."

Ungesson attends most of Aberg's tournaments and even caddied for him once in Bermuda, but he watched the European Masters from the sofa in Eslov, where Aberg's success has come so quickly there has not yet been time for a proper celebration. However, a space at the golf club has been reserved for a Ryder Cup bag to be put on display.

"It all feels unreal," Ungesson says. "But it doesn't scare me, because I know Ludvig, he can handle it."

and it's not just for the money

Times that a three-week hearing actually concluded with Benn's suspension being lifted because the panel did not recognise Vada's authority because it is not a cosignatory of the World Anti-Doping Agency (Wada) code.

This raises a broader question for boxing. The sport is not governed by an international federation and therefore does not fall under Wada. It is why the BBBoC is also not a cosignatory of Wada, instead sourcing its testing programme to Ukad.

But it means the WBC is using a voluntary testing organisation that has its own protocols and prohibited list that, while similar to Wada, leaves boxing sitting outside of the Wada regulations under which Ukad falls.

Right now, Benn's suspension is lifted and he is free to fight and earn money. But Ukad has appealed against the panel decision, with the support of the BBBoC, and the national agency clearly still has the appetite to set up an independent panel to hear the case regarding the two positive tests, with the possibility of a two-year ban for the presence of a specified substance.

Benn's representatives are desperate to meet with Ukad to tackle this issue in the belief that they can repair their client's reputation. As The Times revealed, a team of doctors and scientists believe they have proof that Benn did not deliberately take testosterone-boosting clomiphene.

The WBC had already said the traces found in Benn's samples had been caused by an "elevated consumption of eggs". But a team led by Dr Mohammed Enayat, a GP and expert in functional and personalised medicine, has since said that they can demonstrate to Ukad that the clomiphene metabolites in Benn's samples are entirely consistent with food contamination.

René Carayol MBE, a leading executive coach who recruited Dr Enayat and the scientific experts to review Benn's case, remains determined to present this evidence to Ukad. But the national agency has said it first has to deal with the appeal, causing some frustration in Benn's camp. "I find it very disappointing that there is such a lack of urgency," Carayol said. "While we came into this focused on Conor, this is no longer just about his reputation. This is about boxing and about sport.

"If there is an issue here with ultra-processed food and the way it can affect an athlete's biology, the anti-doping world needs to take a look at what we have found. There have been other clomiphene cases."

SPORT NOTEBOOK

Martyn Ziegler
Chief Sports Reporter



Police escorts smooth path towards home Euro 2028

The UK and Ireland's bid for Euro 2028 has finally agreed to provide Uefa with guarantees of police escorts for team buses at the tournament — but the police will not switch on their blue lights unless it is deemed necessary for public safety.

Uefa has been pushing hard for the guarantee after being frustrated that some Champions League games in London in the past two seasons have been delayed by teams being held up in traffic.



Most European countries arrange for team buses to have large police escorts that provide a smooth passage to the stadiums by closing off roads, but the Home Office has always been reluctant to agree to such measures. Now, with a month to go before Uefa is to officially decide on the hosts of the 2028 and 2032 tournaments, a compromise has been reached. Police escorts will be provided for team buses, but not VIPs, and will be referred to as "police pilots", only turning on their blue lights in exceptional circumstances. The expectation is, however, that a significant delay could be judged as a possible threat to public safety, allowing the blue lights to be switched on.

Uefa is set to recommend a trial of the escort system when Wembley hosts the Champions League final on June 1 next year. Although no final or formal decision has been made, it has been proposed that Turkey and Italy co-host 2032 leaving the UK and Ireland clear for 2028.

Saudi 2034 boost

There is a growing belief in international football circles that Fifa will seek to change its rules to allow the hosts of the 2030 and 2034 World Cups to be chosen at the same time — a move that many would see as effectively handing the 2034 tournament to Saudi Arabia.

Fifa's statutes say that "a Congress may not award the hosting rights to more than one Fifa World Cup at the same meeting". However those rules could be changed at the next Fifa Congress in Bangkok in May, clearing the way for a double vote at the meeting to choose the World Cup hosts at the end of next year.

The no-losers model appeals to sports' leaders — the IOC gave the 2024 Olympics to Paris and the 2028 Games to Los Angeles at the same time — and Uefa is doing the same next month for the Euros.

Spain, Portugal and Morocco's joint bid for 2030 looks unassailable, which is why the Gulf state is now targeting 2034.

Fordstam moves

Roman Abramovich's company Fordstam, previously Chelsea's parent company, has not filed any accounts for 20 months but has finally moved its registered address from Stamford Bridge.

The new address for the company, which has more than £2 billion from the Chelsea sale in a frozen account pending release to a Ukraine war foundation, is Abramovich's triplex penthouse down the road in the Chelsea Waterfront tower. According to Rightmove, the apartment cost £22.34 million in 2019.

Final's Giant leap

The home of the New York Giants has emerged as the favourite venue for the 2026 football World Cup final, though the extreme heat in New York during the US Open tennis this week may give Fifa pause for thought.

A final at the MetLife stadium, which is just across the Hudson river in New Jersey and also hosts NFL games for the New York Jets, would be better for international time zones and is likely to have a bigger buzz around it than the other contender in Dallas. However the Dallas Cowboys' AT&T Stadium has the advantage of a roof and climate control inside.

Los Angeles looks to be a non-starter, as the pitch at the SoFi Stadium, which hosts Arsenal owner Stan Kroenke's LA Rams — another NFL team — is too narrow to comply with Fifa's requirements.

Schillings PR push

Victoria O'Byrne, the former communications chief for the Lawn Tennis Association and London Stadium owners the LLDC (London Legacy Development Corporation), is to jointly head a new PR venture being launched by the libel firm Schillings.

O'Byrne will lead the operation with George Pascoe-Watson, the chairman of Portland Communications who worked for Qatar during the football World Cup last year.

It is being seen as a "reputation management" service by Schillings, which is widely regarded as the most aggressive libel firm in the UK.

Gauff's time is now as Cocomania takes hold of New York

Stuart Fraser
Tennis Correspondent, New York



It is easy to forget sometimes that Coco Gauff is only 19 years old. Unlike Great Britain's Emma Raducanu, who in effect came out of nowhere to win the 2021 US Open as a qualifier at the age of 18, it feels as if the American world No 6 has been a part of the furniture on the tour for some time.

Ever since Gauff made her breakthrough aged 15 at Wimbledon in 2019 by reaching the last 16 after coming through qualifying, she has seemed destined to become a grand-slam champion. Initial predictions from some quarters of more than 20 major titles were absurd given her age — this is the bar that the likes of Serena Williams, Novak Djokovic, Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer have set over the past decade — but it is inevitable that she will win silverware on the biggest stages in tennis.

It would be fitting if the first were to be claimed on home soil on Saturday at a tournament that has been gripped by Cocomania. The passionate New Yorkers are renowned for their support of anyone representing the stars and stripes, but the level of support that Gauff has received over the past fortnight is reminiscent of the energy that greeted Williams every time she played here.

With every match that Gauff has played, she has looked more at ease with it all. There is still much work to be done in the final against Aryna Sabalenka, who is already guaranteed to replace Iga Swiatek as world No1 on Monday, but she is far better prepared than the first time she reached a grand-slam final. At last year's French Open she reached the championship match by defeating no player ranked higher than No 32, only to then be thrashed 6-1, 6-3 by Swiatek.

"Playing that match, the whole tournament felt like a surprise to me," Gauff said. "I wasn't expecting the final here either, but I think then I was just relieved I made it to a final because so many people expected a lot of things from me. I think I just didn't really believe that I had it in me, especially at the time playing Iga, who was on a winning streak and everything.

"This time around, I have been focusing more on myself and my expectations of myself. Not going on social media or listening to people who believe that I can or believe that I can't. I really believe that now I have the maturity and ability to do it. Regardless of what happens on Saturday, I'm really proud of how I have been handling the last few weeks."

The contrast to two months ago is strikingly stark. At Wimbledon Gauff was completely out of sorts and left bitterly disappointed with a first-round defeat by her compatriot Sofia Kenin. Since then she has won 17 of 18 matches on the American hard courts, including the biggest title of her career at the Western & Southern Open in Cincinnati.

The key was a change in her coaching set-up. With a team now led by the Spaniard Pere Riba and the American Brad Gilbert, who formerly coached Andy Murray, she has worked hard on improving her serve and forehand, two areas of her game that were often prone to breaking down under pressure. The results have come far quicker than expected.

"Definitely after Wimbledon I wasn't expecting to do well honestly in this hard-court season, so I'm really proud of the way I have been able to turn this season around," Gauff said. "Honestly at Wimbledon I was really sort of thinking for the off-season [in December] and preparing for next year.

"I still think I have a lot to improve, but 100 per cent I wasn't thinking those results would happen. Even after Cincy, I didn't think this would happen. I'm really proud of myself and there is still a long way to go."

A Sabalenka (2) v C Gauff (6)
Today, 9pm
TV: Sky Sports Tennis
Radio: BBC 5 Live Sports Extra

One of Gauff's most impressive traits since her emergence four years ago is her maturity. Wise beyond her years, this was evident once again on Thursday, when a climate protest inside Arthur Ashe Stadium interrupted her semi-final for 50 minutes. A set up against Karolina Muchova at the time, it would have been easy for Gauff to become frustrated and lose her momentum. Instead, she treated it as if it was a rain delay before speaking with a wider perspective afterwards.

"I believe in climate change," Gauff said. "I think there are things we can do better. Would I prefer it [the protest] not happening in my match? One hundred per cent, yeah. I'm not going to sit here and lie. But it is what it is.

"Moments like this are history-defining moments. I prefer it not to happen in my match but I wasn't pissed at the protesters. I always speak about preaching what you feel and what you believe in. It was done in a peaceful way, so I can't get too mad at it. If that's what they felt they needed to do to get their voices heard, I can't really get upset at it."

A fiercely partisan crowd of 24,000 people is expected to back Gauff against Sabalenka, who is at present playing under a neutral flag because of her Belarusian nationality. Sabalenka rose to the challenge of facing an American in her semi-final, when she defeated Madison Keys from a set down, but Saturday's atmosphere is likely to reach feverish heights inside the world's biggest tennis stadium.

"I would prefer to have someone else or that the crowd would be a little bit the same to both players," Sabalenka, 25, said. "I'm still hoping that probably some of them will be supporting me. Just sometimes, please. Please?"



RESULTS

Football

European Championship qualifying

Group A

Cyprus (0) **0** **Scotland** (3) **3**
McTominay 6, Porteous 16, McGinn 30

Georgia (0) **1** **Spain** (4) **7**
Chakvetadze 49
Morata 22, 40, 65, Kvirkvelia 27 (og), Olmo 38, Williams 68, Yamal 74

Group D

Croatia (3) **5** **Latvia** (0) **0**
Petkovic 3, 44, Ivanusec 13, Kramaric 68, Pasalic 78

Turkey (0) **1** **Armenia** (0) **1**
Yildirim 88
Dashyan 49

Group J

Bosnia-Herz (2) **2** **Liechtenstein** (1) **1**
Dzeko 3, Luchinger 18 (og)
Sandro Wolfinger 21

Luxembourg (1) **3** **Iceland** (0) **1**
Chanot 9 (pen), Borges Sanches 70, Danel Sinani 89
Arnar Haraldsson 88

Slovakia (0) **0** **Portugal** (1) **1**
Bruno Fernandes 43

Cricket

South Africa Women v Pakistan Women
First ODI
South Africa 292-4 (S Luus 107, M Kapp 100). Pakistan 165 (Aliya Riaz 49; De Klerk 3-23; Mlaba 3-39). South Africa beat Pakistan by 127 runs.

Cycling

La Vuelta
Stage 13 (Huesca la Magia-Col du Tourmalet, 134.7 km, mountain stage) 1, J Vingegaard (Den, Jumbo-Visma) 3hr 51min 10sec; 2, S Kuss (US, Jumbo-Visma) at 30sec; 3, P Roglic (Slovenia, Jumbo-Visma) at 33sec.
Overall leaders 1, Kuss 46hr 42min 54sec; 2, Roglic at 1min 37sec; 3, Vingegaard at 1min 44sec; 4, J Ayuso (Sp, UAE Team Emirates) at 2min 37sec; 5, E Mas (Sp, Movistar Team) at 3min 6sec.

Tour of Britain
Stage 6 (Southend-on-Sea-Harlow, 146.2 km, flat stage) 1, D van Poppel (Neth, Bora-Hansgrohe) 3hr 14min 34sec; 2, E Vernon (GB, Soudal Quick-Step); 3, T Gudmestad (Nor, Uno-X Pro Cycling Team); 4, O Kooij (Neth, Jumbo-Visma); 5, C van Uden (Neth, Team DSM) all same time.
Overall leaders 1, W Van Aert (Bel, Jumbo-Visma) 21 hr 10sec; 2, Vernon at 3sec; 3, Kooij; 4, D van Poppel (Neth, BORA-Hansgrohe); 5, T Pidcock (GB, Ineos) all same time.

Golf

Irish Open
Kildare, Ireland: Leaders after two rounds: **131** S Sharma (Ind) 65, 66; J Smith (Eng) 66, 65. **132** R Fisher (Eng) 66, 66. **133** H Long (Ger) 67, 66. **134** C Hill (Scot) 69, 65. **135** S Jamieson (Scot) 69, 66; G Migliozzi (It) 69, 66; F Schott (Ger) 71, 64.

LPGA Kroger Queen City Championship
Cincinnati: Leaders after first round (US unless stated) **65** Ruixin Liu (China). **66** E Szokol; L Stroem (Swe); P Chien (Taiwan); D Ardina (Phil). **67** Min-Jee Lee (Aus); Hye-Jin Choi (S Kor); Ch Hull (Eng); P Delacour (Fr); E K Pedersen (Den); Hae-Ran Ryu (S Kor).

Rugby league

Betfred Super League
Wakefield 10 Catalans Dragons 18; Huddersfield 18 Hull K R 26; Castleford 26 Hull FC 12; St Helens 22 Leigh 12.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Catalans D	25	18	0	7	642	412	36
St Helens	25	18	0	7	565	348	36
Wigan	24	17	0	7	614	348	34
Leigh	25	15	0	10	559	479	30
Hull KR	25	14	0	11	521	486	28
Warrington	24	13	0	11	551	462	26
Salford	24	12	0	12	462	461	24
Leeds	24	11	0	13	489	423	22
Huddersfield	25	10	0	15	413	512	20
Hull	25	10	0	15	444	572	20
Castleford	25	6	0	19	317	680	12
Wakefield	25	4	0	21	272	666	8

Championship
Sheffield 38 Keighley 10; Newcastle 22 Featherstone 56.

Rugby union

Rugby World Cup — Pool A
France **27** **New Zealand** **13**
France: Tries: Penaud, Jaminet. **Con:** Ramos. **Pens:** Ramos 5. **New Zealand: Tries:** Telea 2. **Pen:** Mo'unga. **HT:** 9-8.

Premiership Rugby Cup
Cornish Pirates **23** **Bath** **29**
Cornish Pirates: Tries: Grubb, Trewin, Moyle. **Con:** Jenkins. **Pens:** Pittman 2. **Bath: Tries:** Richards, Stewart, Worboys, Harris. **Cons:** Worboys 3. **Pen:** Worboys. **HT:** 11-15.
Doncaster **38** **Cambridge** **11**
Doncaster: Tries: Simpson, Holden 2, Tait, Cant 2. **Cons:** Dolly 3, Holden. **Cambridge: Try:** Veness. **Pens:** James 2. **HT:** 19-6.

Tennis

US Open
Flushing Meadows, New York: Women's singles: Semi-finals (2) A Sabalenka (Bela) bt (17) M Keys (US) 0-6, 7-6 (7-1), 7-6 (10-5); (6) C Gauff (US) bt (10) K Muchova (Cz) 6-4, 7-5.
Mens Doubles: Final (3) J Salisbury (GB) & R Ram (US) bt (6) M Ebden (Aus) & R Bopanna (Ind) 2-6, 6-3, 6-4.

FIXTURES

Football

3.0 unless stated
European Championship qualifying: Group C: North Macedonia v Italy (7.45); Ukraine v England (5.0). **Group F:** Azerbaijan v Belgium (2.0); Estonia v Sweden (5.0). **Group I:** Andorra v Belarus (5.0). Kosovo v Switzerland; Romania v Israel.

Sky Bet League One Exeter v Leyton Orient; Stevenage v Charlton.

League Two: Accrington v Mansfield; AFC Wimbledon v Stockport; Bradford v Grimsby (12.30); Colchester v Tranmere; Crawley v Newport; Forest Green v Crewe; Gillingham v Harrogate; MK Dons v Notts County; Salford v Walsall; Swindon v Sutton; Wrexham v Doncaster.

Vanarama National League AFC Fylde v Aldershot; Barnet v Altrincham; Bromley v Maidenhead United; Chesterfield v Dagenham and Redbridge; Eastleigh v Gateshead; FC Halifax Town v Southend (12.30); Kidderminster Harriers v Rochdale; Oldham v Dorking Wanderers; Oxford City v Hartlepool; Wealdstone v Ebbsfleet United; Woking v Solihull Moors; York City v Boreham Wood.

National League South Braintree Town v Farnborough; Chippenham Town v Maidstone United; Dover Athletic v Weymouth; Havant & Waterlooville v Truro City; Slough Town v Aveley; St Albans City v Dartford; Tonbridge Angels v Taunton Town; Torquay United v Chelmsford City; Welling United v Bath City; Weston-super-Mare v Hampton & Richmond; Worthing v Hemel Hempstead Town; Yeovil v Eastbourne Borough

National League North Alfreton Town v Boston United; Banbury United v Warrington Town; Bishop's Stortford v Darlington; Chester FC v Blyth Spartans; Curzon Ashton v Chorley; Gloucester City v Farsley Celtic; Kings Lynn Town v Southport; Scarborough Athletic v Brackley Town; Scunthorpe v Buxton; South Shields v Rushall Olympic; Spennymoor Town v Hereford FC; Tamworth v Peterborough Sports.

Rugby union

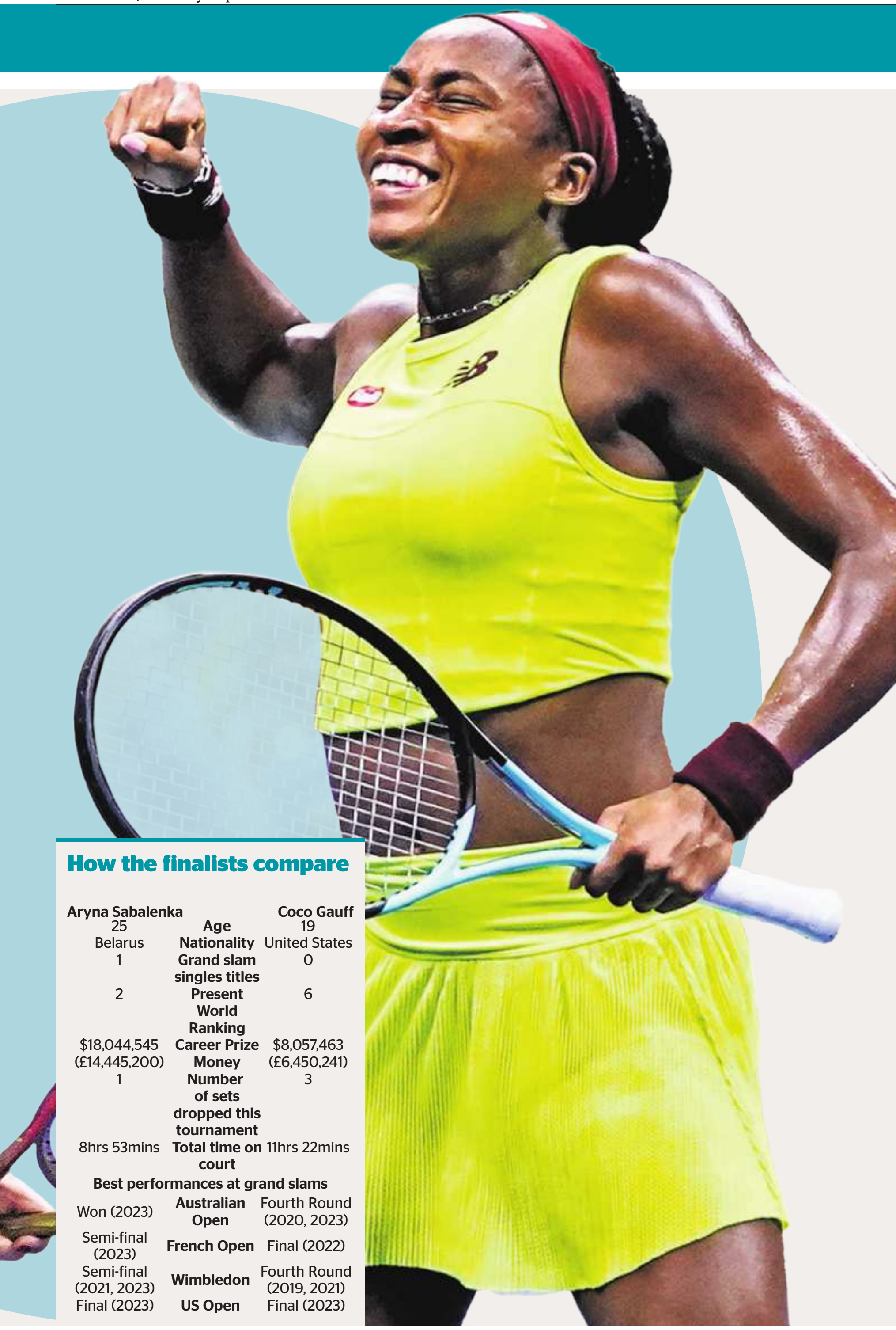
World Cup: Pool A: St Etienne: Italy v Namibia (12.0). **Pool B** Bordeaux: Ireland v Romania (2.30). **Pool C** Saint-Denis: Australia v Georgia (5.0). **Pool D** Marseille: England v Argentina (8.0).

Rugby league

Betfred Super League: Leeds v Wigan (2.45).

Cricket

First women's one-day international; Chester-le-Street: England v Sri Lanka (11.0)



How the finalists compare

Aryna Sabalenka		Coco Gauff
25	Age	19
Belarus	Nationality	United States
1	Grand slam singles titles	0
2	Present World Ranking	6
$18,044,545 (£14,445,200)	Career Prize Money	$8,057,463 (£6,450,241)
1	Number of sets dropped this tournament	3
8hrs 53mins	Total time on court	11hrs 22mins
	Best performances at grand slams	
Won (2023)	Australian Open	Fourth Round (2020, 2023)
Semi-final (2023)	French Open	Final (2022)
Semi-final (2021, 2023)	Wimbledon	Fourth Round (2019, 2021)
Final (2023)	US Open	Final (2023)

Djokovic swats Shelton aside to make final

Stuart Fraser

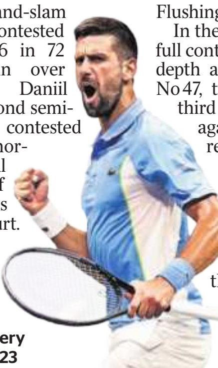
Novak Djokovic ended the US Open run of America's new tennis star Ben Shelton in brutal fashion by winning their semi-final contest in straight sets before imitating his opponent's trademark post-match celebration.

Despite facing second serves of up to 143mph, the 23-times grand slam champion from Serbia was too strong on Arthur Ashe Stadium last night, as he soaked up the barrage coming towards him for a 6-3, 6-2, 7-6 (7-4) win.

One of the most entertaining moments of the night came after the match. After a competitive third set, Djokovic, 36, celebrated his triumph by putting his hand up to his ear like a phone before slamming it down as if he was hanging up the call. This was the same celebration that Shelton, 20, had made after beating Frances Tiafoe in the quarter-finals to show that he was "dialled in". The handshake that followed between Djokovic and Shelton was unsurprisingly cold.

Djokovic has now made the final in exactly half of the grand-slam tournaments he has contested with a record of 36 in 72 appearances. A win over Carlos Alcaraz or Daniil Medvedev — the second semi-final was due to be contested overnight — in tomorrow's final would equal the all-time record of 24 major singles titles held by Margaret Court.

"These are the matches that I thrive on, that keep me going," Djokovic said.



Djokovic has made every grand-slam final in 2023

Other than a scare in the third round, when Djokovic was two sets down to his fellow Serbian, Laslo Djere, he has looked so comfortable on the court in his first tournament appearance at Flushing Meadows since 2021.

In the first two sets, Djokovic was in full control, hitting groundstrokes with depth and accuracy. Shelton, ranked No 47, threatened a fightback in the third set and had a set point at 5-4 against serve but could not get his return back over the net. Djokovic went on to seal his progress in a tie-break.

Great Britain's Joe Salisbury claimed his sixth grand slam trophy by making history in New York, winning three consecutive US Open men's doubles titles for the first time in the professional era with his partner, Rajeev Ram.

THE TAILENDER

Patrick Kidd



Tindall's perfect night out

So there's a big rugby match today then. And not just Blackheath against Bishop's Stortford. England start the World Cup as fifth favourites at 16-1, a reflection on a favourable draw rather than anything approaching form, but things can change quickly. A month ago Alex Mitchell and Jonny May weren't in the World Cup squad, today they start against Argentina, and the team look stronger for it.

The vagaries of selection are laid out in *The Boys of Winter*, Owen Slot and Lawrence Dallaglio's new autopsy of the World Cup winners of 2003, where we learn that Sir Clive Woodward was so worried by injuries to Josh Lewsey and Iain Balshaw after the group stage that he asked Austin Healey to do a 21,000-mile round trip to Sydney to be acclimatised in case one of them had to withdraw. It will be rather easier to get someone to Le Touquet this tournament.

Lewsey and Balshaw both recovered and played in the World Cup final. On the same day, a jet-lagged Healey was playing for Leicester away to Rotherham in front of 2,900. Their would-be replacement did, however, play a role in a team-mate's happiness. Mike Tindall was dropped for the semi-final against France, with Woodward feeling that Mike Catt's kicking game would be better in wet conditions, and felt so annoyed he went out with Healey in Manly.

"It turned out that dropping me was the greatest decision he ever made," Tindall reflected, for it was in that bar that he met his future wife, Zara Phillips, the late Queen's granddaughter, for the first time. "Twenty years on, Tinds is one big plane crash from being King of England," Dallaglio said, with just a slight exaggeration and misunderstanding of the constitution. "I was the one responsible for Clive's knighthood," Tindall added.

In 2011, Tindall and Phillips were married, with Balshaw, whose injury had led to them meeting, as the best man. He arrived looking like the Elephant Man, having had 20 facial stitches after a road accident in Biarritz. "So you're the moron who fell off his motorcycle," the Duke of Edinburgh said. Not a scenario any of them can have imagined when England's backs had a mid-tournament injury crisis eight years earlier. Sport and life are unpredictable — if seldom to that degree. That's why we love it.

PIC OF THE WEEK
Great Britain's Gareth Hughes, Charlotte Fry, Charlotte Dujardin and Carl Hester jump for joy after winning gold at the European Dressage Championships, their first team triumph since the 2012 Olympics, which had also featured Hester and Dujardin. It leaves Britain well placed for success in "horse ballet" in Paris.



England born – Blackheath bred

England's replacement front row today was made in Blackheath. Will Stuart played for us as a teenager, Theo Dan was in our youth system from five to 17 and Joe Marler once said he'd learnt the dark arts of scrummaging for Esher against our Des Brett. "He gave me a horrendous schooling," Marler said.

This is not (just) a plug for my club, but a reminder that everyone starts somewhere, often quite low in the pyramid, far from the Premiership. For all England's difficulties, they will be cheered on with pride at clubs such as Holt (Freddie Steward), Hertford (Jamie George), Royal Wootton Bassett (Jonny May), Winchester (Joe Marchant), Old Redcliffians (Ellis Genge) and Old Scouts in Northampton (Courtney Lawes), by those who knew them as boys and gave them the love of rugby.

There is no more loyal fan than an old one: these are who England should give their all for.

Al Fayed's gold bar for a Pound

The Craven Cottage faithful must wait a week to show their appreciation for Mohamed Al Fayed, their former owner, who died the day after the recent Carabao Cup win over Spurs. One supporter who was keen to share praise was Stephen Pound, the former Labour MP, who was such a fan he even went to the effort of looking like Punch when Fayed owned the magazine.

Pound tells me Fayed impressed his 12-year-old son by saying he used to play football in Alexandria. "Crewe Alexandria?" the boy said, then asked what position he played. "Captain, always captain," Fayed said loftily, before giving the boy a large gold bar. Disappointingly, it was foil-wrapped chocolate.

● After rain washed out nine matches in the Hundred in August, it seemed apt that a heatwave should strike once cricket's County Championship returned. A message from above?

Mill Stream set to sink Shaquille in Sprint Cup

Rob Wright Racing Editor

Mill Stream is improving with every race and he can claim a first group one victory in the Betfair Sprint Cup (3.35) at Haydock Park today.

This progressive three-year-old sprinter has won his past two starts, both at Deauville last month, impressively landing a listed race before again having plenty in hand when scoring in group three company last time.

He has a high cruising speed and likes to race close to the pace, both of which bode well for his prospects on this speed-favouring track. He looks a fair bet at the 11-1 offered by Ladbrokes.

Shaquille is a red-hot favourite and undoubtedly has enormous talent. He has won top-flight sprints on his past two starts at Royal Ascot and Newmarket, despite missing the break and pulling hard in the early stages on each occasion. If he proves more tractable he will be hard to beat but given his past antics he looks short enough at even-money in such a big field.

Champions Weekend in Ireland starts with a cracking card at Leopardstown today. Brilliant filly **Tahiyra** will rightly start at cramped odds for the Coolmore America Matron Stakes (2.45) but the Royal Bahrain Irish Champion Stakes (3.20) is much more open, with **King Of Steel** taken to come out on top.

Collared late on in the Derby at Epsom by Auguste Rodin, he again travelled well for a long way in the King George at Ascot before fading into third in an attritional contest. He clearly stays a mile-and-a-half but it could be that this ten-furlong trip is his optimum distance at this stage of his career. He can gain a deserved success.

ROB WRIGHT'S WEEKEND GUIDE

Big-race trends
Betfair Sprint Cup
(3.35 Haydock Park)
Three-year-olds have a good record in this group one sprint, with five wins in the past ten renewals. Hot favourite Shaquille is one of eight from that generation running today

Repeat performance?
Look Out Louis
(4.10 Haydock Park)
Has struggled for form since winning this race a year ago but runs here off a 9lb lower mark as a result. Possible that the fitting of a visor for the first time here could spark a revival

Banker or bust?
Persica
(2.50 Kempton Park)
Lacked the speed to challenge in a valuable sales race over six furlongs at York last time but his earlier form is solid and this longer trip seems sure to suit. BANKER

What's in a name
Spun To Gold
(2.00 Ascot)
He owes his name to his dam, Rumplestiltskin, a misspelt version of the title of a Brothers Grimm fairytale in which Rumpelstiltskin helped a miller to spin straw into gold

Red-hot trainer
Edward Bethell
The North Yorkshire handler has saddled four winners from his past six runners. He has two entries at Haydock today — Point Lynas (1.50) and Regional (3.35)

Bet of the day
Reminder
(4.55 Ascot)
This filly is bred in the purple and took advantage of a lenient mark to win on her handicap debut at Windsor. She can shrug off a 4lb rise

Leopardstown (selected)
Rob Wright

2.45 Tahiyra **3.20** King Of Steel

Going: good, good to firm in places
Draw: no advantage — Racing TV/ITV3

2.45 Coolmore America Matron Stakes (Group I: £240,000: 1m) (13)

1	(5)	140-2	**HOMELESS SONGS** 157 (BF,C,D) D K Weld 4-9-7	**O Murphy**
2	(2)	1-243	**JUMBLY** 16 (D) J P O'Brien 4-9-7	**C Soumillon**
3	(7)	03-51	**JUST BEAUTIFUL** 104 (D) P Twomey 5-9-7	**W J Lee**
4	(6)	-5130	**PROSPEROUS VOYAGE** 57 (B,D) R Beckett (UK) 4-9-7	**R Hornby**
5	(9)	23215	**ROGUE MILLENNIUM** 41 (D) Tom Clover (UK) 4-9-7	**D Tudhope**
6	(12)	110	**CADEAU BELLE** 42 (H,BF,D) J P Murtagh 3-9-2	**B M Coen**
7	(3)	30101	**CLEVER AND COOL** 6 (P,D) J S Bolger 3-9-2	**R P Cleary**
8	(1)	12-0	**GOZEN** 27 (H) M O'Callaghan 3-9-2	**L F Roche**
9	(10)	-6240	**MEDITATE** 62 (B,D) A P O'Brien 3-9-2	**R L Moore**
10	(8)	2-315	**OCEAN JEWEL** 13 (H,C) W McCreery 3-9-2	**G F Carroll**
11	(13)	-0150	**OLIVIA MARALDA** 14 R Varian (UK) 3-9-2	**K Stott**
12	(4)	1-211	**TAHIYRA** 78 (D) D K Weld 3-9-2	**C D Hayes**
13	(11)	31411	**ZARINSK** 44 (CD) G M Lyons 3-9-2	**C T Keane**

4-5 Tahiyra, 7-1 Meditate, Zarinsk, 10-1 Homeless Songs, 12-1 others.

3.20 Royal Bahrain Irish Champion Stakes (Group I: £725,000: 1m 2f) (9)

1	(7)	111-1	**ALFLAILA** 42 (D) Owen Burrows (UK) 4-9-9	**J Crowley**
2	(4)	-5124	**LUXEMBOURG** 42 (CD) A P O'Brien 4-9-9	**J A Heffernan**
3	(3)	200-4	**ONESTO** 27 (T,D) F Chappet (FR) 4-9-9	**L Dettori**
4	(8)	-1130	**POINT LONSDALE** 42 (C,D) A P O'Brien 4-9-9	**D McMonagle**
5	(6)	42132	**NASHWA** 17 (D) J & T Gosden (UK) 4-9-6	**H Doyle**
6	(9)	11-22	**AL RIFFA** 25 J P O'Brien 3-9-3	**C Soumillon**
7	(2)	-0110	**AUGUSTE RODIN** 42 (BF,C) A P O'Brien 3-9-3	**R L Moore**
8	(5)	0-213	**KING OF STEEL** 42 R Varian (UK) 3-9-3	**K Stott**
9	(1)	-1146	**SPREWELL** 69 (CD) J Harrington 3-9-3	**S Foley**

11-4 King Of Steel, 3-1 Auguste Rodin, 6-1 Alflaila, Onesto, 7-1 others.

Haydock Park
Rob Wright

1.50 Light Infantry
2.25 Denmark
3.00 Sea King
3.35 Mill Stream
4.10 Look Out Louis
4.45 Macduff
5.15 Pearl Eye

Going: good
Draw: no advantage — Racing TV

1.50 Best Odds On The Betfair Exchange Superior Mile Stakes — ITV3
(Group III: £42,532: 1m) (8 runners)

1	(2)	15-413	**REGAL REALITY** 23 (D) Sir M Stoute 8-9-8	**P Mulrennan**	110
2	(1)	225154	**CHICHESTER** 14 (D) C Johnston 6-9-5	**J Fanning**	110
3	(3)	0-1263	**CHINDIT** 21 (BF,D) R Hannon 5-9-5	**James Doyle**	113
4	(5)	-30233	**LIGHT INFANTRY** 27 D M Simcock 4-9-5	**J P Spencer**	♦118
5	(6)	3-0405	**MISTY GREY** 21 T Dascombe 6-9-5	**A Rawlinson**	107
6	(8)	162202	**POINT LYNAS** 16 (H,D) E Bethell 4-9-5	**C Rodriguez**	104
7	(4)	13-200	**SIR BUSKER** 168 (V,D) W Knight 7-9-5	**B Curtis**	109
8	(7)	10-142	**ZOOLOGY** 77 Harry Eustace 3-9-0	**C Fallon**	112

13-8 Light Infantry, 4-1 Zoology, Chindit, 11-2 Regal Reality, 10-1 Sir Busker, 16-1 Chichester, 20-1 Misty Grey, 25-1 Point Lynas.

Rob Wright's choice: Light Infantry has been placed in group one company on his past three starts; he can outclass this field **Dangers** Chindit, Zoology

2.25 Get Daily Rewards With Betfair Handicap (3-Y-O: £51,540: 1m 6f) (8) — ITV3

1	(7)	12-52	**DENMARK** 14 (B) A P O'Brien (Ire) 9-9	**James Doyle**	♦101
2	(6)	3221	**NAQEEB** 17 (T) W Haggas 9-7	**T Marquand**	100
3	(8)	2-1010	**DAVIDEO** 14 R Beckett 9-6	**R Hornby**	95
4	(5)	221114	**LORDSHIP** 14 (BF,CD) W Haggas 9-2	**A Farragher (3)**	90
5	(4)	2-6316	**THE GOAT** 14 A Balding 9-0	**J P Spencer**	90
6	(3)	-61110	**EDGE OF DARKNESS** 14 C Johnston 8-5	**A Breslin (3)**	83
7	(2)	113002	**FRENCH INVASION** 15 C Johnston 8-3	**J Fanning**	81
8	(1)	0-1212	**BLINDEDBYTHELIGHTS** 15 (BF) Sir M Prescott 8-2	**L Morris**	78

5-2 Naqeeb, 11-4 Denmark, 11-2 Lordship, 6-1 Davideo, 15-2 Blindedbythelights, 10-1 The Goat, 14-1 French Invasion, 20-1 Edge Of Darkness.

Wright choice: Denmark raced too keenly when a good second in the Melrose Handicap at York on his first try at this trip **Dangers** Naqeeb, Lordship

3.00 Betfair Exchange Old Borough Cup Handicap (£51,540: 1m 6f) (15) — ITV3

1	(5)	205500	**ENEMY** 14 (T,D) I Williams 6-9-13	**C Fallon**	97
2	(4)	10-030	**TRITONIC** 36 A King 6-9-7	**Rossa Ryan**	♦103
3	(12)	060050	**GET SHIRTY** 14 (T,C,D) D O'Meara 7-9-7	**D Nolan**	91
4	(2)	-22056	**CAIUS CHORISTER** 14 D Menuisier 4-9-6	**J P Spencer**	95
5	(10)	040034	**EUCHEN GLEN** 14 (CD) J Goldie 10-9-4	**P Mulrennan**	95
6	(9)	-21520	**ADJUVANT** 14 (D) M Bell 4-9-4	**N Callan**	97
7	(8)	4D0-21	**SEA KING** 13 Sir M Prescott 4-9-2	**L Morris**	96
8	(13)	166332	**AZTEC EMPIRE** 17 (BF) A Balding 4-9-0	**James Doyle**	93
9	(11)	1-0000	**POST IMPRESSIONIST** 14 (D) W Haggas 4-9-0	**T Marquand**	89
10	(7)	-53154	**MR CURIOSITY** 15 (D) T Easterby 6-8-13	**D Allan**	93
11	(1)	-50021	**FORZA ORTA** 17 K Ryan 5-8-11	**R Scott**	89
12	(3)	603636	**NOLTON CROSS** 28 H Palmer 4-8-11	**C Lee**	94
13	(15)	005020	**HALIPHON** 17 (P,D) I Williams 6-8-7	**B Curtis**	87
14	(14)	123500	**LA PULGA** 17 (D) C Johnston 4-8-6	**J Fanning**	79
15	(6)	-53220	**DARK ISLAND** 2 H Main 4-8-2	**Mia Nicholls (7)**	77

5-1 Aztec Empire, 11-2 Caius Chorister, 13-2 Forza Orta, Post Impressionist, 15-2 Adjuvant, 8-1 Sea King, 12-1 Euchen Glen, Mr Curiosity.

Wright choice: Sea King won in fine style at Goodwood; he is unexposed over this longer trip **Dangers** Post Impressionist, Euchen Glen

Blinkered first time: Ascot 3.10 Victory Dance. **Haydock Park** 4.10 Look Out Louis. **Kempton Park** 4.35 Brasil Power. **Stratford** 2.30 Ginistrelli. **Wolverhampton** 7.00 Salsa Dancer. 8.30 Ivy Avenue.

3.35 Betfair Sprint Cup Stakes (British Champions Series) — ITV3
(Group I: £242,106: 6f) (17)

1	(6)	403406	**ANNAF** 14 (D) M Appleby 4-9-5	**A Rawlinson**	100
2	(12)	-01422	**GARRUS** 13 (D) C Hills 7-9-5	**B Curtis**	113
3	(8)	603150	**KHAADEM** 15 (D) C Hills 7-9-5	**J P Spencer**	111
4	(13)	05-115	**REGIONAL** 15 (T,CD) E Bethell 5-9-5	**C Rodriguez**	109
5	(2)	000006	**ROHAAN** 9 (BF,CD) P Evans 5-9-5	**N Callan**	104
6	(15)	2-4102	**RUN TO FREEDOM** 56 (P,D) H Candy 5-9-5	**T Whelan**	116
7	(14)	0-6013	**SAINT LAWRENCE** 34 (B,D) A Watson 5-9-5	**L Morris**	109
8	(4)	-14212	**SPYCATCHER** 34 (BF,D) K R Burke 5-9-5	**J Fanning**	109
9	(9)	-63211	**MILL STREAM** 13 (D) J Chapple-Hyam 3-9-3	**M Ghiani**	121
10	(3)	1-656U	**RUMSTAR** 35 (D) J Portman 3-9-3	**R Hornby**	118
11	(5)	1-1111	**SHAQUILLE** 56 (H,D) J Camacho 3-9-3	**James Doyle**	♦126
12	(10)	120504	**SHOULDVEBEENARING** 14 (D) R Hannon 3-9-3	**S M Levey**	108
13	(16)	32-310	**THE ANTARCTIC** 77 (D) A P O'Brien (Ire) 3-9-3	**C Fallon**	107
14	(7)	12-125	**SACRED** 14 (P,T) W Haggas 5-9-2	**T Marquand**	106
15	(17)	-51101	**BELIEVING** 20 (T,D) G Boughey 3-9-0	**J Hart**	105
16	(1)	11-001	**LEZOO** 14 (D) R Beckett 3-9-0	**Rossa Ryan**	102
17	(18)	4-3031	**SWINGALONG** 57 (D) K R Burke 3-9-0	**C Lee**	118

4-5 Shaquille, 8-1 Mill Stream, 10-1 Spycatcher, 12-1 Saint Lawrence, Sacred, 14-1 Lezoo, Regional, 16-1 Run To Freedom, Believing.

Wright choice: Mill Stream has improved to win on his past two starts; there should be more to come **Dangers** Shaquille, Swingalong

4.10 Betfair Be Friendly Handicap
(£33,501: 5f) (12)

1	(3)	305403	**RAASEL** 36 (P,CD) M Appleby 6-10-0	**James Doyle**	♦103
2	(1)	003321	**ALLIGATOR ALLEY** 9 (T,V,D) D O'Meara 6-9-3	**D Nolan**	95
3	(12)	0-6000	**TEES SPIRIT** 15 (D) Adrian Nicholls 5-9-0	**Mia Nicholls (7)**	89
4	(6)	242113	**JM JUNGLE** 17 (CD) J J Quinn 3-8-13	**J Hart**	94
5	(5)	030053	**ARECIBO** 9 (P,D) R Cowell 8-8-13	**M Ghiani**	98
6	(7)	105316	**DEMOCRACY DILEMMA** 37 (V,BF,D) P Evans 3-8-13	**N Callan**	86
7	(8)	254000	**MONDAMMEJ** 14 (CD) A Brittain 6-8-12	**C Hardie**	97
8	(11)	311300	**HARRY BROWN** 56 (D) D M Simcock 3-8-7	**L Morris**	87
9	(2)	202551	**LIHOU** 14 (D) P Evans 7-8-7	**B Curtis**	86
10	(4)	120240	**VENTURA EXPRESS** 17 (D) P Midgley 6-8-7	**Laura Coughlan (5)**	87
11	(10)	060045	**LOOK OUT LOUIS** 21 (V,CD) J Camacho 7-8-7	**B McHugh**	98
12	(9)	011305	**COPPER KNIGHT** 17 (P,T,D) T Easterby 9-8-7	**J Fanning**	84

4-1 Jm Jungle, 9-2 Alligator Alley, 6-1 Raasel, 8-1 Lihou, Arecibo, Democracy Dilemma, 10-1 others.

4.45 Betfair Daily Tips On Betting.Betfair Ascendant Stakes (Listed)
(2-Y-O: £22,968: 1m) (6)

1	(6)	12	**AL MUSMAK** 42 R Varian 9-4	**B Curtis**	79
2	(5)	4514	**HOT FUSS** 17 T Dascombe 9-4	**L Keniry**	♦93
3	(3)	1	**MACDUFF** 29 R Beckett 9-4	**Rossa Ryan**	89
4	(1)	3413	**PORTLAND** 21 A P O'Brien (Ire) 9-4	**James Doyle**	93
5	(4)	21	**REMAADD** 13 (D) W Haggas 9-4	**T Marquand**	76
6	(2)	01	**MARCELLA** 34 A Balding 8-13	**J P Spencer**	71

9-4 Macduff, 11-4 Al Musmak, 7-2 Remaadd, 5-1 Portland, 8-1 Hot Fuss, 16-1 Marcella.

5.15 Extra Places Any Day With Betfair Handicap (£10,468: 1m) (13)

1	(11)	634562	**ZOZIMUS** 7 (V,D) D O'Meara 5-10-4	**D Nolan**	82
2	(1)	136605	**BAILEYSGUTFEELING** 12 (T) Mrs N Evans 4-10-1	**C Hardie**	♦83
3	(8)	301132	**TELE RED** 11 (CD) K R Burke 6-9-11	**S Feilden (7)**	77
4	(7)	45263-	**PUB CRAWL** 335 (T) T Collier 4-9-9	**C Fallon**	--
5	(2)	132131	**PEARL EYE** 13 (P,CD) Darryll Holland 3-9-8	**B Curtis**	79
6	(12)	164000	**GARDEN OASIS** 12 (P,C,D) T Easterby 8-9-8	**D Allan**	73
7	(10)	36-102	**PRINCESS NIYLA** 15 (D) H Palmer 3-9-6	**T Marquand**	76
8	(3)	3-4262	**JUMEIRAH KING** 33 K Ryan 3-9-6	**C Lee**	77
9	(4)	220200	**ARRANMORE** 9 (D) D Sayer 6-9-5	**P Mulrennan**	74
10	(9)	0-2563	**ROYAL MUSKETEER** 50 Steph Hollinshead 5-9-4	**L Morris**	73
11	(13)	025000	**BERKSHIRE PHANTOM** 14 Fionn McSharry 3-9-4	**P Mathers**	73
12	(5)	3-0101	**KING'S CODE** 11 (D) P Evans 3-9-3	**Rossa Ryan**	74
13	(6)	251110	**WAR CHANT** 30 (P,D) R Guest 3-9-2	**N Callan**	71

10-3 Pearl Eye, 4-1 Tele Red, 13-2 Zozimus, 15-2 King's Code, 8-1 Princess Niyla, 10-1 others.

Kempton Park
Rob Wright

1.35 Bay Bridge
2.10 Kathab
2.50 Persica
3.25 Starlust (nb)
4.00 Brave Knight
4.35 Rich Rhythm
5.10 Lady Chapel
5.45 Purple Poppy

Going: standard to slow
Draw: 5f-1m, low numbers best — Racing TV

1.35 Unibet September Stakes — ITV3
(Group III: £51,039: 1m 4f) (7 runners)

1	(6)	10-221	**ISRAR** 58 (D) J & T Gosden 4-9-12	**K Shoemark**	05
2	(2)	51-325	**BAY BRIDGE** 80 Sir M Stoute 5-9-7	**R Kingscote**	109
3	(4)	411-60	**BELLOCCIO** 132 (CD) D Menuisier 5-9-7	**Kyle Strydom**	♦110
4	(1)	33-331	**CANDLEFORD** 14 (CD) W Haggas 5-9-7	**P Dobbs**	82
5	(5)	001-36	**MAX VEGA** 121 (D) R Beckett 6-9-7	**H Crouch**	85
6	(7)	1021/3	**SHANDOZ** 21 (CD) R Varian 6-9-7	**David Egan**	93
7	(3)	2221-1	**FORTINO** 216 (D) J & T Gosden 4-9-6	**B Sayette**	102

5-4 Bay Bridge, 5-2 Israr, 5-1 Candleford, 10-1 Fortino, 12-1 Max Vega, 20-1 Belloccio, 25-1 Shandoz.

Wright choice: Bay Bridge won the Champion Stakes at Ascot last season; he is a class act and ought to cope with this longer trip **Danger** Israr

2.10 Unibet London Mile Series Final Handicap (£41,232: 1m) (14) — ITV3

1	(9)	106020	**IMPERIAL SANDS** 49 (B,CD) A Watson 5-9-12	**K Shoemark**	♦102
2	(5)	310106	**BEAR FORCE ONE** 22 (P,CD) R Teal 7-9-5	**P J McDonald**	93
3	(3)	244601	**HELM ROCK** 9 (T,D) D & C Kubler 5-9-4	**R Kingscote**	92
4	(4)	050-02	**RHYTHM N ROCK** 65 (CD) J Butler 5-8-12	**Dylan Hogan**	88
5	(11)	-00002	**FIRST VIEW** 17 (P,BF,CD) S bin Suroor 6-8-12	**C Howarth (5)**	88
6	(2)	-10066	**KEYSER SOZE** 100 (B,CD) R Spencer 9-8-11	**D Keenan**	88
7	(6)	235113	**KATHAB** 12 (BF,D) W Haggas 3-8-10	**P Dobbs**	99
8	(1)	-45550	**FANTASTIC FOX** 28 (D) R Varian 5-8-10	**David Egan**	85
9	(7)	040001	**BALTIMORE BOY** 17 (V,CD) M Bell 4-8-9	**C Shepherd**	85
10	(14)	103F10	**STARSHIBA** 17 (V,C,D) D O'Meara 6-8-8	**H Davies**	82
11	(12)	202124	**TWO TEMPTING** 17 (CD) J Portman 4-8-7	**G Rooke**	82
12	(10)	330160	**BRAINS** 18 (B,T,CD) E McNamara (Ire) 7-8-6	**S Cherchi**	83
13	(13)	431032	**GOLDEN SANDS** 17 (H,P,CD) M Appleby 4-8-5	**T Ladd**	75
14	(8)	303201	**BOTAS** 24 (CD) J Boyle 5-8-3	**Georgia Dobie (3)**	71

3-1 Kathab, 5-1 First View, 13-2 Baltimore Boy, 15-2 Helm Rock, 10-1 Two Tempting, Rhythm N Rock, 14-1 Bear Force One, Golden Sands, Brains.

Wright choice: Kathab was given too much to do in a slowly run race at Ripon last time; he remains unexposed **Dangers** Rhythm N Rock, Botas

2.50 Unibet More Extra Place Races Nursery
(2-Y-O: £6,281: 1m) (6)

1	(5)	010	**PERSICA** 16 R Hannon 9-10	**P Dobbs**	90
2	(6)	030	**QUORATE** 21 C Hills 9-2	**R Kingscote**	85
3	(2)	12053	**BITS AND BOBS** 21 J Osborne 9-2	**David Egan**	94
4	(4)	415	**SAHARA KITTEN** 37 J Tate 9-1	**C Shepherd**	♦99
5	(3)	52140	**PERSIAN PHOENIX** 28 C Johnston 8-12	**F Norton**	69
6	(1)	352	**MAREFUORI** 23 (T) M Botti 8-9	**H Davies**	72

11-4 Quorate, 3-1 Persica, 4-1 Sahara Kitten, 9-2 Marefuori, 11-2 Bits And Bobs, 12-1 Persian Phoenix.

3.25 Unibet Zero% Mission Sirenia Stakes
(Group III: 2-Y-O: £39,697: 6f) (9)

1	(4)	221	**ARRAY** 21 (D) A Balding 9-3	**P J McDonald**	97
2	(3)	1036	**ASADNA** 12 (P,D) Alice Haynes 9-3	**David Egan**	91
3	(8)	1	**EBEN SHADDAD** 14 (D) J & T Gosden 9-3	**K Shoemark**	88
4	(6)	3110	**GOLDEN TRICK** 14 (D) H Palmer 9-3	**B Sayette**	97
5	(1)	211	**GOVERNMENT CALL** 21 (D) E J-Houghton 9-3	**C Bishop**	97
6	(5)	110445	**HALA EMARAATY** 15 Alice Haynes 9-3	**R Kingscote**	98
7	(9)	421113	**SEVEN QUESTIONS** 12 (D) G Scott 9-3	**C Shepherd**	♦99
8	(2)	51122	**STARLUST** 17 (BF,D) R Beckett 9-3	**H Crouch**	98
9	(7)		**WHO SAID GO** T Dascombe 9-3	**P-L Jamin**	--

5-2 Eben Shaddad, 7-2 Starlust, 9-2 Seven Questions, 6-1 Array, 10-1 Government Call, Asadna, 12-1 Hala Emaraaty, 14-1 Golden Trick, 33-1 Who Said Go.

4.00 Try Unibet's Improved Bet Builder Handicap (£6,281: 2m) (9)

1	(1)	11-460	**MOUNTAIN ROAD** 70 (H,D) D M Simcock 4-10-2	**C Shepherd**	62
2	(5)	342133	**CAPTAIN KANE** 8 (P,D) G Scott 4-9-13	**B Sayette**	82
3	(2)	1-1000	**HEATHEN** 42 (H) E Dunlop 4-9-12	**H Davies**	81
4	(9)	352344	**MOTAZZEN** 15 (T,V) G Baker 5-9-9	**R Kingscote**	77
5	(4)	301404	**WORLD WITHOUT LOVE** 22 C Johnston 4-9-8	**F Norton**	76
6	(6)	145251	**BRAVE KNIGHT** 7 (P,D) Sir M Prescott 3-9-5	**D Keenan**	79
7	(8)	130	**CIRCUIT BREAKER** 56 R Beckett 3-9-4	**H Crouch**	♦90
8	(3)	120020	**ENOCHDHU** 21 (C) J Portman 3-8-13	**K Shoemark**	63
9	(7)	-32242	**FOX VISION** 31 (H) R Varian 3-8-13	**David Egan**	80

10-3 Fox Vision, 7-2 Brave Knight, 6-1 Captain Kane, 7-1 Motazzen, 15-2 Mountain Road, 8-1 Circuit Breaker, 10-1 World Without Love, 12-1 Heathen, Enochdhu.

4.35 Unibet More Boosts In More Races Handicap (£4,187: 7f) (14)

1	(13)	0-1035	**BRASIL POWER** 71 (T,V,CD) G Boughey 4-9-11	**C Shepherd**	80
2	(11)	000052	**MIGHTY POWER** 8 Mrs Stella Barclay 5-9-11	**C Howarth (5)**	80
3	(8)	365235	**GRANARY QUEEN** 15 (P,D) E J-Houghton 5-9-9	**C Bishop**	76
4	(10)	1/2060	**VERONA STAR** 21 (P,T,D) A Watson 4-9-8	**J Bryan**	62
5	(7)	645602	**SATIN SNAKE** 11 (B,CD) A Keatley 4-9-8	**B Sayette**	77
6	(9)	622	**MANY A YEAR** 24 B Meehan 4-9-8	**R Kingscote**	♦88
7	(3)	5-4542	**RICH RHYTHM** 74 (BF) R Beckett 4-9-4	**H Crouch**	67
8	(5)	-05326	**STRIKE** 21 J Portman 5-9-4	**David Egan**	59
9	(1)	33/054	**DAKOTA POWER** 28 R Teal 4-9-2	**P J McDonald**	85
10	(14)	40-216	**ADELA OF CHAMPAGNE** 17 (CD) D Menuisier 4-9-2	**K Shoemark**	68
11	(2)	-50000	**BLUE FLAME** 21 (T,D) S C Williams 6-8-13	**S Cherchi**	61
12	(6)	-36650	**LA RAV** 12 (D) L Carter 9-8-12	**Josephine Gordon**	69
13	(4)	450020	**GOT NO DOLLARS** 16 (P,T,CD) S C Williams 5-8-10	**Dylan Hogan**	63
14	(12)	356043	**WIZARDING** 3 (BF,CD) H Main 4-8-8	**Doubtful**	65

7-2 Rich Rhythm, 6-1 Many A Year, 13-2 Brasil Power, Satin Snake, 7-1 Mighty Power, 8-1 Granary Queen, 10-1 Adela Of Champagne, 12-1 Verona Star, Strike.

5.10 Unibet Support Safe Gambling Handicap (Div 1) (£3,140: 1m) (10)

1	(3)	006000	**LUNAR SPACE** 16 (B) J Osborne 5-9-11	**David Egan**	38
2	(6)	000324	**DIAMONDSINTHESAND** 16 (H,BF) A Wintle 6-9-10	**F Marsh**	65
3	(9)	-15565	**AGAPANTHER** 23 (C) H Main 4-9-9	**Gina Mangan (3)**	60
4	(7)	010450	**RECUERDAME** 98 (CD) S Dow 7-9-7	**P Bradley (3)**	56
5	(2)	60034	**STAR FOR A DAY** 39 S Hodgson 4-9-5	**W Carver (3)**	88
6	(5)	405014	**CHEESE THE ONE** 7 (B) Mrs Stella Barclay 4-9-3	**C Howarth (5)**	48
7	(10)	000036	**PRIVATE BRYAN** 26 E De Giles 4-9-0	**D Keenan**	14
8	(1)	00-060	**BOASTED** 191 K Frost 4-9-0	**P-L Jamin**	38
9	(8)	000	**LADY CHAPEL** 96 J Ferguson 3-8-10	**S Cherchi**	87
10	(4)	353400	**ANGEL DE LUZ** 28 (B) Miss A Murphy 3-8-9	**B Sayette**	♦90

3-1 Diamondsinthesand, 7-2 Cheese The One, 13-2 Agapanther, 7-1 Star For A Day, 8-1 Lady Chapel, Recuerdame, 10-1 Lunar Space, 12-1 Private Bryan.

5.45 Unibet Support Safe Gambling Handicap (Div 2) (£3,140: 1m) (10)

1	(1)	0006-6	**ESPRESSO FREDDO** 17 (V,CD) A Wintle 9-9-11	**F Marsh**	♦91
2	(7)	4-1263	**ISLAND OF SKYE** 23 (CD) E J-Houghton 4-9-10	**G Downing**	56
3	(6)	133300	**DAMASCUS FINISH** 82 (V) B Johnson 4-9-9	**C Shepherd**	60
4	(5)	000162	**FLYING PANTHER** 17 (H,P,T,BF,D) T Ward 3-9-6	**P J McDonald**	57
5	(9)	-31220	**PURPLE POPPY** 10 J Fox 5-9-4	**Georgia Dobie (3)**	49
6	(4)	-54001	**GOLDEN PHASE** 31 (D) D Coakley 3-9-0	**K Shoemark**	45
7	(8)	060000	**RUNNER BEAN** 9 E De Giles 4-9-0	**D Keenan**	41
8	(10)	000-P0	**AMAL** 59 (P) J R Jenkins 5-9-0	**S Cherchi**	--
9	(2)	0-006	**ANDARAX** 17 (H) J Butler 3-8-9	**David Egan**	34
10	(3)	0-000	**BRAZEN INSANITY** 19 (H) Mrs L Richards 3-8-9	**G Rooke**	85

9-4 Flying Panther, 5-2 Golden Phase, 10-3 Island Of Skye, 15-2 Purple Poppy, 10-1 Espresso Freddo, 12-1 Damascus Finish, 16-1 Andarax, 33-1 Runner Bean.

YESTERDAY'S RACING RESULTS

Ascot
Going: good

1.50 (6f) 1, **Miss Information** (Oisin Murphy, 11-4 fav); 2, Seax (25-1); 3, Western (4-1). 11 ran. NR: Nemov. 1l, nk. A M Balding.
2.25 (7f) 1, **Olympic Candle** (Oisin Murphy, 5-2 fav); 2, Accumulate (13-2); 3, The Ice Phoenix (17-2). 11 ran. 2l, 1l. S bin Suroor.
3.00 (7f 213yd) 1, **Seaward** (Hector Crouch, 5-6 fav); 2, Climate Action (12-1); 3, Catch The Light (15-8). 5 ran. 1½l, 11l. R M Beckett.
3.35 (1m) 1, **Crystal Casque** (Mrs Jo Supple, 25-1); 2, Double Time (33-1); 3, Shaladar (8-1). 11 ran. NR: Carnival Zain. ½l, 1¼l. B R Millman.
4.10 (7f) 1, **Glenfinnan** (Oisin Murphy, 4-1); 2, Tafreej (6-4 fav); 3, Out Of Shadows (10-1). 8 ran. ½l, 2l. A M Balding.
4.45 (1m) 1=, **Daysofourlives** (S Cherchi, 14-1); 1=, **Ouzo** (Saffie Osborne, 7-2); 3, Aerion Power (7-2). 7 ran. dht, 1l. M Botti, J Osborne
5.20 (7f) 1, **Zouzanna** (Oisin Murphy, 7-2); 2, Kimnkate (15-2); 3, Starlight Nation (18-1). 11 ran. NR: Vermilion. ¾l, nk. H R Charlton.
Jackpot: Not won. Pool of £28,791.36 carried forward to Haydock today.
Placepot: £403.90.
Quadpot: £90.40.

Haydock
Going: good

1.30 (1m 3f 140yd) 1, **Shadow Dance** (James Doyle, 3-1); 2, Golden Maverick (10-3); 3, Feud (7-4 fav). 5 ran. NR: Dubai Crystal, Molinari. 4l, 1¾l. R Varian.
2.00 (6f) 1, **Raqiya** (James Doyle, 6-5 fav); 2, Lunar Shine (11-1); 3, All Agleam (50-1). 11 ran. 4¼l, nk. Owen Burrows.
2.35 (5f) 1, **Soul Seeker** (W Buick, 5-1); 2, Muker (4-1 fav); 3, Bayraat (11-2). 12 ran. NR: Never Dark. Hd, hd. D O'Meara.
3.10 (7f 212yd) 1, **Lingua Franca** (L Morris, 13-2); 2, Bolsena (12-1); 3, Eranthis (5-1). 6 ran. ½l, ½l. Sir Mark Prescott.
3.45 (6f 212yd) 1, **Street Kid** (Daniel Muscutt, 8-1); 2, Persuasion (3-1 fav); 3, Canoodled (11-2). 10 ran. NR: He's A Gentleman, Prairie Falcon. Hd, ¾l. K P De Foy.
4.20 (6f 212yd) 1, **Red Maids** (W Buick, 9-4 fav); 2, Hoof It Hoof It (14-1); 3, Reve De Magritte (22-1). 9 ran. 2½l, nk. M G Rimell.
4.55 (1m 6f) 1, **Marmara Sea** (W Buick, 4-1 jt-fav); 2, Alshadhian (7-1); 3, Double Oban (4-1 jt-fav). 8 ran. NR: Sharp Distinction. 1¼l, ½l. Jane Chapple-Hyam.
Placepot: £194.50.
Quadpot: £52.90.

Kempton
Going: standard / slow

5.55 (7f) 1, **Irrelevant** (Finley Marsh, 10-3); 2, Due Consideration (11-4 fav); 3, Brooklyn Express (8-1). 10 ran. 5l, 3l. R Hughes.
6.30 (7f) 1, **Piloto Pardo** (S Hitchcott, 17-2); 2, Khisah Bu Thaila (UNR) (16-1); 3, Fire Demon (8-11 fav). 14 ran. ½l, nk. R Hannon.
7.00 (1m) 1, **Lambert** (Billy Loughnane, 4-5 fav); 2, Dunstan (6-4); 3, No Mischief (66-1). 9 ran. NR: Beauty Generation. 1¼l, 3l. G Boughey.
7.30 (1m) 1, **Beccara Rose** (Harry Davies, 9-4 fav); 2, Venus Rosewater (11-2); 3, Doha (11-4). 9 ran. ½l, hd. C Fellowes.
8.00 (6f) 1, **Change Sings** (George Downing, 2-1 fav); 2, Distinguished Lady (6-1); 3, Nogo's Dream (7-1). 11 ran. NR: Unsung Hero. ¾l, 1¼l. Eve Johnson Houghton.
8.30 (1m 3f 219yd) 1, **Study The Stars** (N Callan, 6-1); 2, Prosecco (11-2); 3, Noble Masquerade (13-2). 6 ran. 1¼l, 3l. George Baker.
9.00 (1m 7f 218yd) 1, **Sophar Sogood** (Morgan Cole, 18-5); 2, Imperial Cult (7-1); 3, Hourless (2-1 fav). 11 ran. 2¼l, 4¼l. J Butler.
Placepot: £22.00.
Quadpot: £10.80.

Newcastle
Going: standard

2.10 (1m 4f 98yd) 1, **Toscan Genius** (Ben Robinson, 6-1); 2, Lord Torranaga (10-3 fav); 3, Trailblazer (7-2). 8 ran. NR: International Law, Tiberio Force. 3l, hd. B Ellison.
2.45 (1m 2f 42yd) 1, **Fleur De Mer** (Jason Hart, 15-8 fav); 2, Irish Flame (28-1); 3, Barrolo (9-4). 12 ran. NR: Cusack. 1½l, sh hd. H Palmer.
3.20 (7f 14yd) 1, **Grey Force One** (Aiden Brookes, 50-1); 2, Sun Power (7-2 jt-fav); 3, Emperor Caradoc (6-1). 11 ran. NR: Concert Boy. Nk, sh hd. C W Fairhurst.
3.55 (7f 14yd) 1, **Abruzzo Mia** (C Beasley, 4-1); 2, Caribbean Sunset (3-1 fav); 3, Kats Bob (6-1). 10 ran. NR: Secret Road. 1¾l, ¾l. M Dods.
4.30 (1m 5yd) 1, **Dark Encounter** (S H James, 11-10 fav); 2, Consoling (15-2); 3, Alpen Power (5-1). 6 ran. 2½l, ½l. K R Burke.
5.05 (6f) 1, **Gunfighter** (Jason Hart, 13-2); 2, Pianoforte (5-1); 3, Appellant (6-1). 11 ran. Nk, 3¾l. H Palmer.
5.40 (6f) 1, **Love Lies** (D Tudhope, 10-11 fav); 2, Thunder Princess (6-5); 3, Top Gun Tina (200-1). 7 ran. NR: Margot Robbie. 3¼l, ¾l. A Watson.
6.10 (1m 5yd) 1, **Explorers Way** (Ben Robinson, 6-1); 2, Mr Strutter (6-1); 3, Global Tycoon (6-1). 13 ran. NR: Mr Heinz. 1l, ¾l. B Ellison.
Placepot: £41.70.
Quadpot: £21.70.

Ascot
Rob Wright

2.00 Ghostwriter
2.35 Hickory
3.10 Benacre
3.45 Jeff Koons
4.20 High Spirited
4.55 Reminder (nap)
5.30 Haymaker

Going: good
Draw: no advantage
Sky Sports Racing

2.00 Novice Stakes (2-Y-O: £16,200: 7f) (9)
1 (7) 1 GHOSTWRITER 29 (D) C Cox 9-10 W Buick
2 (5) 02 AMERICAN BAY 30 H & R Charlton 9-4 D Muscutt
3 (3) ARAMRAM R Hannon 9-4 S Hitchcott
4 (9) 6 DARK TORNADO 20 P Chapple-Hyam 9-4 J F Egan
5 (8) 06 HE'S GOT GAME 26 (T) H Palmer 9-4 R Coakley
6 (2) MILITARY ARTIST R Varian 9-4 C Noble
7 (4) SEA THE THUNDER R Beckett 9-4 Laura Pearson
8 (1) 3 SPUN TO GOLD 17 A Balding 9-4 D Probert
9 (6) VON BAER B Meehan 9-4 S Osborne
9-4 Ghostwriter, 7-2 Spun To Gold, 4-1 American Bay, 13-2 Military Artist, 10-1 Dark Tornado, Sea The Thunder, 16-1 Von Baer, Aramram, 33-1 others.

2.35 bet365 Handicap (£41,232: 7f) (14) ITV
1 (12) 60540 BLESS HIM 42 (H,C,D) D M Simcock 9-9-12 H Turner
2 (1) 10201 ROPEY GUEST 16 (V,D) G Margarson 6-9-10 T P Queally
3 (5) 00004 ESCOBAR 13 (T,C,D) D O'Meara 9-9-8 D Muscutt
4 (8) 26132 STAR OF ORION 14 (BF,D) R Beckett 5-9-8 L Pearson
5 (4) 04001 SPANGLED MAC 21 (P,T,D) G Boughey 4-9-7 W Buick
6 (10) 21002 POPMASTER 21 (C) E Walker 5-9-7 R Coakley
7 (9) 11113 QUINAULT 28 (H,T,D) S C Williams 3-9-4 L Catton (5)
8 (6) 00050 ORBAAN 16 (T,C,D) D O'Meara 8-9-3 Jason Watson
9 (14) 44202 HICKORY 42 (V,D) J Fanshawe 5-9-0 S Osborne
10 (3) 20110 HAVANA BLUE 49 (D) C Cox 3-9-0 J Fahy
11 (7) 50012 ABDUCTION 10 (D) J Goldie 5-8-12 S Gray
12(11) -6011 LOVE DE VEGA 10 (D) C Johnston 4-8-11 D Probert
13 (2) -2020 TOP SECRET 21 (H,CD) W Muir & C Grassick 6-8-11 L Edmunds
14(13) 23202 MOBASHR 9 (H,D) M Appleby 5-8-6 T Hammer Hansen
6-1 Hickory, 13-2 Quinault, 7-1 Love De Vega, 8-1 Spangled Mac, Star Of Orion, 10-1 Havana Blue, Mobashr, Popmaster.

Wright choice: Hickory improved for the fitting of a visor when a good second here **Dangers** Spangled Mac, Mobashr

3.10 Lavazza Stakes (Heritage Handicap) (3-Y-O: £51,540: 1m 4f) (9) ITV
1 (8) 13-34 VICTORY DANCE 27 (B) C Appleby 9-9 W Buick
2 (6) 33620 STRUTH 15 (P,D) C Johnston 9-4 O Stammers
3 (2) 24043 BENACRE 13 (P,BF) C Johnston 9-1 D Muscutt
4 (3) 2113 ALSAKIB 37 A Balding 8-9 D Probert
5 (7) 02232 PERFECT PLAY 7 C Johnston 8-8 H Turner
6 (5) 04211 OVERACTIVE 27 (D) R Beckett 8-6 Laura Pearson
7 (9) 65120 TRUE LEGEND 14 (P,D) Sir M Prescott 8-6T Hammer Hansen
8 (4) 01111 GALLANT LION 23 A Carroll 8-4 S Osborne
9 (1) 55232 DANCING IN PARIS 30 (BF) I Williams 8-2S D Bowen (5)
7-2 Alsakib, 4-1 Victory Dance, 5-1 Gallant Lion, 6-1 Overactive, 8-1 True Legend, 10-1 Benacre, Struth, Perfect Play, 12-1 Dancing In Paris.

Wright choice: Benacre failed to handle soft ground last time; well worth another chance **Dangers** Victory Dance, Struth

3.45 Handicap (3-Y-O: £10,800: 1m 2f) (6)
1 (1) 212 BOTANICAL 31 (H) R Varian 9-9 C Noble
2 (2) -4421 ELEGANCIA 36 (H,D) H & R Charlton 9-9 D Probert
3 (5) 2144 JEFF KOONS 13 (BF) J & T Gosden 9-8 R Havlin
4 (4) 2-251 MANTOOG 23 (D) Owen Burrows 9-6 W Buick
5 (3) 66010 NEW DAYRELL 9 (H,D) W Muir & C Grassick 9-1 L Edmunds
6 (6) 14042 BLUEFLAGFLYINGHIGH 14 (D) M Bell 8-13 F Larson (3)
9-4 Botanical, 3-1 Mantoog, 7-2 Elegancia, 9-2 Jeff Koons, 8-1 Blueflagflyinghigh, 14-1 New Dayrell.

4.20 Handicap (£21,600: 1m) (11)
1 (9) 112-0 AMANZOE 15 (C,D) W Haggas 4-10-0 H Turner
2 (8) 16510 FARHH TO SHY 16 (CD) G Margarson 5-9-10 T P Queally
3 (11) 5-230 TARRABB 28 (T,C,D) Owen Burrows 4-9-10 D Probert
4 (1) 630043 BRIDESTONES 28 (T,D) J & T Gosden 3-9-6 W Buick
5 (10) 63235 DON'T TELL CLAIRE 23 (B,CD) D & C Kubler 6-9-6D Muscutt
6 (7) 40050 KARSAVINA 24 C Cox 3-9-5 J Fahy
7 (2) -1631 PREPENSE 45 Sir M Stoute 3-9-4 S Osborne
8 (4) -1026 MAGGIE'S WAY 28 (D) W Muir & C Grassick 3-9-3 L Edmunds
9 (5) 41000 SPIRIT OF THE BAY 34 (B,D) C Cox 5-9-2 W Cox
10 (6) 0-000 LADY ALARA 63 C Hills 3-9-0 Jason Watson
11 (3) 03-10 HIGH SPIRITED 90 (D) H Candy 3-8-10 N Currie
9-2 Bridestones, 5-1 Prepense, Tarrabb, 15-2 Farhh To Shy, 8-1 High Spirited, Maggie's Way, Amanzoe, 10-1 Don't Tell Claire.

4.55 Handicap (£18,039: 6f) (13)
1 (5) 03111 DARK TROOPER 28 (CD) E Walker 3-9-12 S Osborne
2 (10) 1D02- WILLEM TWEE 339 (BF,D) J Fanshawe 4-9-12 D Muscutt
3 (8) 1-000 DUSKY LORD 9 (P,T,D) S C Williams 5-9-9 L Catton (5)
4 (7) -0152 RUSSET GOLD 28 R Varian 3-9-7 T Hammer Hansen
5 (2) 35104 ANOTHER INVESTMENT 28 (D) N Tinkler 4-9-6A Jary (7)
6 (11) 25-50 BRESSON 96 (P,D) J & T Gosden 3-9-5 R Havlin
7 (6) -6500 BONNY ANGEL 28 (D) C Cox 3-9-1 W Cox
8 (1) 03331 BLIND BEGGAR 29 (B,D) M Appleby 5-9-1 F Larson (3)
9 (3) -0360 REDEMPTION TIME 58 (T) C Cox 3-9-0 J Fahy
10 (9) 03212 CAPOTE'S DREAM 13 (T,V,D) T Ward 6-9-0 R Coakley
11(13) 42251 BUSSENTO 31 (P,D) E J-Houghton 3-8-13 D Probert
12(12) 0121 REMINDER 14 (D) A Balding 3-8-12 W Buick
13 (4) 13000 KUWAIT CITY 17 J Butler 3-8-10 L Edmunds
9-2 Dark Trooper, 5-1 Reminder, 13-2 Russet Gold, Capote's Dream, 8-1 Blind Beggar, Willem Twee, Bussento, 12-1 Bresson, Another Investment.

5.30 Handicap (£18,900: 5f) (14)
1 (3) 05026 EXISTENT 28 (H,P,D) S C Williams 5-9-12 D Muscutt
2 (4) 00160 ACKLAM EXPRESS 9 (D) N Tinkler 5-9-7 F McManoman
3 (6) 0-265 FERNANDO RAH 89 (P,D) C Cox 5-9-7 J Fahy
4 (11) -0000 MOUNTAIN PEAK 21 (CD) E Walker 8-9-5 R Coakley
5 (9) 01310 NAVELLO 39 (P,T,D) G Boughey 4-9-5 W Buick
6 (2) 36002 BEDFORD FLYER 21 (P,D) M Appleby 5-9-5 F Larson (3)
7 (14) 31420 HAYMAKER 33 (BF) H Morrison 4-9-3 D Probert
8 (13) /500- MINE'S A DOUBLE 434 (CD) D & C Kubler 5-9-2J Watson
9 (10) 54001 CALL ME GINGER 7 (CD) J Goldie 7-9-2 Amie Waugh (5)
10 (1) 06432 SPRING BLOOM 7 (BF,D) R Eddery 6-9-1 S W Kelly
11 (5) 0154- DYNAMIC FORCE 288 (D) R Cowell 4-9-1 R Havlin
12(12) 43605 SWAYZE 9 (D) W Muir & C Grassick 4-9-0 L Edmunds
13 (7) 03501 ABOVE 14 (D,T,D) R Cowell 6-8-13 S Osborne
14 (8) 52100 WOOLHAMPTON 17 (B,CD) B Millman 3-8-13O Searle (7)
5-1 Call Me Ginger, 11-2 Spring Bloom, 8-1 Bedford Flyer, Existent, Above, Haymaker, 10-1 Dynamic Force, 12-1 Swayze, Navello.

Stratford
Rob Wright

2.30 Boundsy Boy
3.05 All The Glory
3.40 Impulsive One
4.15 Max Of Stars
4.50 Glengeever
5.20 Aughafatten

Going: good
Racing TV

2.30 Handicap Hurdle (£3,776: 2m 3f) (8)
1 2-2P6 ELHAM VALLEY 18 (B,T) F O'Brien 6-12-0 L Harrison (3)
2 34-24 PEACEFUL SUNDAY 14 (P) J Candlish 7-11-7 L Stones
3 P1/5- GINISTRELLI 188 (T,V) M Harris 7-11-3 B Harris (3)
4 1-422 BOUNDSY BOY 81 (B,T) O Greenall & J Guerriero 5-10-7 Toby Wynne (3)
5 46-P0 GUGUSS COLLONGES 85 (P) R Teal 7-10-2 Lilly Pinchin
6 004-3 THE REBEL BREEN 16 (P,T) Katy Price 4-10-2 F Lambert
7 035/0 OCEAN REACH 18 R J Price 7-10-2 Harriet Tucker (5)
8 006- AURELIA FADILLA 199 T R Gretton 6-10-2 L Dobb (3)
11-8 Elham Valley, 9-4 Boundsy Boy, 6-1 Peaceful Sunday, 8-1 Ginistrelli, 14-1 Guguss Collonges, 20-1 The Rebel Breen, 25-1 others.

3.05 Novices' Hurdle (£6,535: 2m) (4)
1 62232 DONNIE AZOFF 40 (T,D) J Snowden 7-11-6 G Sheehan
2 531P3 SOBEGRAND 2 (CD) O Murphy 4-11-4 S Bowen
3 32-11 ALL THE GLORY 21 (P,D) Jonjo O'Neill 6-11-3Jonjo O'Neill Jr
4 004 CELLAR CLUB 4 Henry Oliver 4-10-5 Lilly Pinchin (3)
4-7 All The Glory, 11-4 Donnie Azoff, 5-1 Sobegrand, 50-1 Cellar Club.

3.40 Handicap Chase (£7,209: 2m 1f) (4)
1 P-433 IMPULSIVE ONE 46 (T) B Ellison 5-11-10 H Cobden
2 /3111 GUINNESS AFFAIR 34 (T,D) J Snowden 7-11-8 G Sheehan
3 305-1 GLORY AND HONOUR 14 (T,D) S England 7-10-12 J England
4 -3154 ALIOMAANA 18 (H) M Harris 5-10-5 H Reed
8-11 Guinness Affair, 7-2 Glory And Honour, 4-1 Impulsive One, 10-1 Aliomaana.

4.15 Handicap Hurdle (£4,568: 2m) (6)
1 51211 CLEARANCE 18 (CD) M Blake 9-12-0 T Cannon
2 12505 GAVIN 14 (H,T,D) P Bowen 5-11-8 S Bowen
3 563-2 BAHTIYAR 16 (BF) D Skelton 5-11-2 Mr B Sutton (7)
4 65-12 LONG CALL 16 (D) A Carroll 10-10-13 Lilly Pinchin (3)
5 -PP5U FULL OF LIGHT 16 (T) B Summers 7-10-10 C Hammond
6 2112 MAX OF STARS 19 (BF) O Pears 3-10-8 B Hughes
2-1 Clearance, 11-4 Bahtiyar, 4-1 Max Of Stars, 6-1 Gavin, Long Call, 25-1 Full Of Light.

4.50 Handicap Chase (£4,832: 2m 7f) (6)
1 33120 STEEL WAVE 36 (B,T,CD) G Hanmer 13-12-0 T Worsley (3)
2 -0432 MOTION IN LIMINE 14 (B,T) Dr R Newland 8-11-13S Twiston-Davies
3 225P3 GLENGEEVER 9 (B) B Lund 7-11-11 G Sheehan
4 34513 ECOSSAIS 2 (T,V) O Greenall & J Guerriero 9-11-8T Wynne (5)
5 -3535 JOLY MAKER 16 (C) Jonjo O'Neill 9-11-7 M Kendrick
6 -3262 O'FAOLAINS LAD 16 (P,T) Mrs R Ford 9-10-11 R McLernon
11-4 Motion In Limine, 7-2 Ecossais, 4-1 Steel Wave, 5-1 O'Faolains Lad, 6-1 Glengeever, 7-1 Joly Maker.

5.20 NH Flat Race (£2,451: 2m) (5)
1 4-311 AUGHAFATTEN 38 (D) Gerald Quinn 5-11-9 Mr D McGill (7)
2 PIC THE POWER L Morgan 4-11-0 A Wedge
3 3 PROFESSOR HIGGINS 61 G Hanmer 4-11-0 S Bowen
4 56 QUECHUA 9 M Young 4-11-0 C Hammond
5 0-6 BRADFORD LADY 16 M Harris 4-10-7 B Harris (5)
4-9 Aughafatten, 9-2 Professor Higgins, 5-1 Pic The Power, 25-1 others.

Thirsk
Rob Wright

2.05 Straight A
2.40 Boiling Point
3.15 Midnite Runner
3.50 Albegrey
4.25 Zaman Jemil
5.00 Zapphire
5.35 Knockbrex
6.10 Muzaffar

Going: good, good to firm in places
Draw: 5f-6f, high numbers best
Racing TV

2.05 Nursery (2-Y-O: £4,711: 1m) (11)
1 (4) 5100 STRAIGHT A 16 Harry Eustace 9-11 G Wood
2 (6) 22115 MAKING DREAMS 25 K R Burke 9-11Brandon Wilkie (7)
3 (11) 5524 SLEVEN 28 R Beckett 9-9 D Costello
4 (3) 610 GOLDEN BUNGLE 49 I Furtado 9-9 Dale Swift
5 (2) 4334 PHONE TAG 37 (B) H Palmer 9-9 J Peate (3)
6 (9) 34214 CHARGED UP 51 O Pears 9-8 C Beasley
7 (5) 506 TASMANIAN LEGEND 31 J Ferguson 9-3 S James
8 (10) 6623 SWIFT SALIAN 50 D & N Barron 9-1 Ryan Sexton (3)
9 (8) 605 WORLD WITHOUT END 22 O Pears 9-1 G Lee
10 (1) 630 AMAZING WINNIE 17 K Ryan 9-0 T Eaves
11 (7) 4156 PROFITABLE DREAMS 32 J Bedi 8-11 JP Sullivan
11-4 Phone Tag, 5-1 Sleven, 11-2 Straight A, 7-1 Charged Up, 15-2 Making Dreams, 10-1 Amazing Winnie, Swift Salian, 12-1 Golden Bungle, others.

2.40 Novice Stakes (2-Y-O: £4,860: 7f) (11)
1 (9) 23 BOILING POINT 22 (BF) R Varian 9-7 A Keeley (3)
2 (1) 0 BORDERLINE BOSS 45 K Ryan 9-7 T Eaves
3 (2) 0 BROMPTON CROSS 8 J O'Keeffe 9-7 J Garritty
4 (10) 2 COLORADA DANCER 20 R Fahey 9-7 B Garritty
5 (7) 0 FILEY BEACH 24 C Johnston 9-7 A Mullen
6 (11) 0 MYSTERYOFTHESANDS 21 T Easterby 9-7 S B Kirrane
7 (3) 00 NORTHERN CRACKSMAN 12 B Ellison 9-7 B Robinson
8 (4) 0 STARLIGHT STANLEY 22 M Dods 9-7 C Beasley
9 (8) STAY IN THE GAME J J Quinn 9-7 Dale Swift
10 (6) 642 STRONG REQUEST 27 K R Burke 9-7 S James
11 (5) 0 ALMA DON 14 R Fell & S Murray 9-2 J Peate (3)
4-5 Boiling Point, 2-1 Colorada Dancer, 8-1 Strong Request, 10-1 Stay In The Game, 25-1 Borderline Boss, Filey Beach, 66-1 Mysteryofthesands, others.

3.15 Novice Stakes (2-Y-O: £4,860: 7f) (10)
1 (9) 0 CLEAR ENDEAVOUR 42 O Pears 9-7 B Garritty
2 (3) 4 FIRING SQUAD 22 K R Burke 9-7 S James
3 (8) 6 GAME MANAGEMENT 39 K Ryan 9-7 T Eaves
4 (6) 5 HAND JIVE 21 C Johnston 9-7 A Mullen
5 (5) 00 LIKEASHADOW 77 A Brown 9-7 S B Kirrane
6 (4) 0 MIDNITE RUNNER 24 M Dods 9-7 C Beasley
7 (2) 04 MINERS GAMBLE 14 B Ellison 9-7 B Robinson
8 (10) STANLEY STREET J J Quinn 9-7 JP Sullivan
9 (1) 0 THE CRAFTY MOLE 12 D O'Meara 9-7 R Oliver
10 (7) 46 LAST ADDITION 13 J O'Keeffe 9-2 G Lee
6-5 Firing Squad, 11-2 Miners Gamble, 6-1 Hand Jive, 15-2 Stanley Street, 10-1 Game Management, 12-1 Last Addition, 14-1 Midnite Runner, 25-1 others.

3.50 Handicap (£6,281: 7f) (14)
1 (5) 01130 MATTY TOO 17 (V,D) E Dunlop 4-9-9 C Beasley
2 (7) 5-023 POET'S MAGIC 17 (D) J J Quinn 7-9-8 D Costello
3 (13) 00056 THE TURPINATOR 21 (D) G Tuer 6-9-8 S B Kirrane
4 (2) 01301 ARCHDUKE FERDINAND 21 (D) S Spencer 4-9-7 D Swift
5 (10) 52015 OSO RAPIDO 4 (D) R Fell & S Murray 6-9-7 J Peate (3)
6 (14) 11145 NOVAK 14 (D) I Jardine 4-9-5 W Pyle (5)
7 (12) 36010 MAGICAL MAX 21 (T,C,D) I Furtado 6-9-5 E-M Croot (7)
8 (1) 02010 EY UP ITS THE BOSS 14 (P,C,D) T Coyle 4-9-4 T Eaves
9 (9) 52034 MILBANKE 35 (D) J Camacho 4-9-3 Ryan Sexton (3)
10 (8) 331-5 REPUTATION 24 (CD) R Carr 10-9-3 JP Sullivan
11 (6) 00302 MUNTADAB 52 (CD) R Fell & S Murray 11-9-3 B Garritty
12 (4) -1305 ALBEGREY 17 T Easterby 4-9-2 D Fentiman
13(11) -3150 AL BAAHY 21 (D) K Frost 4-9-2 B Sanderson (3)
14 (3) 26406 SHOWTIME MAHOMES 11 G Tuer 4-9-1 S James
6-1 Archduke Ferdinand, 15-2 Oso Rapido, Milbanke, 8-1 Novak, 10-1 Reputation, Magical Max, Ey Up Its The Boss, Muntadab, Matty Too, others.

4.25 Handicap (£10,308: 6f) (7)
1 (3) 00-00 TABDEED 77 (D) A Watson 8-9-13 A Mullen
2 (1) 61300 STERLING KNIGHT 33 (P,D) E Dunlop 4-9-9 B Robinson
3 (2) 0-2106 ZAMAN JEMIL 28 (CD) H & R Charlton 3-9-6 C Beasley
4 (5) 52552 BRAZEN BOLT 8 (BF,D) J J Quinn 6-9-4 G Sanna (5)
5 (6) 04000 ZARZYNI 7 (P,D) D & N Barron 6-9-3 S James
6 (4) 65500 NOMADIC EMPIRE 17 (P,C,D) D O'Meara 5-9-1 Mark Winn (3)
7 (7) 00500 GHATHANFAR 31 (P,BF,D) T Waggott 7-8-7 W Pyle (5)
2-1 Brazen Bolt, 7-2 Zaman Jemil, 11-2 Sterling Knight, 6-1 Tabdeed, 15-2 Nomadic Empire, 8-1 Zarzyni, 12-1 Ghathanfar.

5.00 Handicap (£10,308: 7f) (9)
1 (3) -2404 SILENT WORDS 39 K Ryan 3-9-9 T Eaves
2 (5) 21110 WILD SIDE 72 (BF,D) G Boughey 3-9-9 S James
3 (8) 60422 ORIGINTRAIL 11 B Haslam 4-9-7 G Lee
4 (1) 32164 WIND IN YOUR SAILS 28 (BF,C) R Beckett 3-9-3J Peate (3)
5 (7) 52565 NO NAY NICKI 15 (P) R Fahey 4-9-2 B Garritty
6 (9) 15630 ALETHIOMETER 15 (CD) M Dods 4-9-1 C Beasley
7 (2) 43126 CORI GLORY 47 (D) M Walford 3-9-0 D Costello
8 (6) 3-521 ZAPPHIRE 28 (D) J Camacho 3-8-13 Ryan Sexton (3)
9 (4) 21300 PLATINUM GIRL 37 (D) T Easterby 3-8-6 D Fentiman
7-2 Zapphire, 5-1 Silent Words, 11-2 Wind In Your Sails, Origintrail, 13-2 Wild Side, 15-2 Cori Glory, 10-1 No Nay Nicki, Alethiometer, 14-1 Platinum Girl.

5.35 Handicap (£6,281: 1m 4f) (8)
1 (6) 220-5 DUBAI WELCOME 21 (D) S bin Suroor 6-10-2 D Costello
2 (3) 3-433 WOR WILLIE 20 (BF,C,D) M Dods 5-10-0 C Beasley
3 (8) 1-035 VAYNOR 74 (D) C Hills 4-9-13 G Lee
4 (7) 5-350 FURZIG 23 (C,D) R Fahey 8-9-11 J Garritty
5 (2) 24003 KNOCKBREX 40 C Johnston 3-9-9 A Mullen
6 (4) 32503 STRAWMAN 8 Gemma Tutty 6-9-8 Mark Winn (3)
7 (5) -6003 SHAKE A LEG 15 (P,D) J Camacho 6-9-4 Ryan Sexton (3)
8 (1) 00-00 RING OF BEARA 12 T Easterby 4-9-3 D Fentiman
10-3 Dubai Welcome, 7-2 Wor Willie, 4-1 Vaynor, 6-1 Shake A Leg, 7-1 Knockbrex, 8-1 Furzig, 10-1 Strawman, 20-1 Ring Of Beara.

6.10 Handicap (£4,711: 1m 6f) (7)
1 (3) 0P405 MUZAFFAR 9 (BF) R Fahey 4-10-4 Ryan Sexton (3)
2 (5) 0-001 TENDENTIOUS 14 (P,D) D O'Meara 5-10-3 B Robinson
3 (7) 44642 HONDO 19 R Fell & S Murray 3-9-7 S James
4 (1) 45346 LEDNIKOV 47 (P) I Furtado 5-9-7 Elle-May Croot (7)
5 (4) 00504 MYBOYMAX 20 (T,C,D) M Hammond 5-9-7 A Brookes (5)
6 (2) -2065 DESERT QUEST 20 (D) Ewan Whillans 5-9-1 A Mullen
7 (6) -3322 MICHAEL'S PLEDGE 11 (B,BF) J J Quinn 3-8-10 JP Sullivan
5-2 Michael's Pledge, 7-2 Tendentious, 9-2 Hondo, Muzaffar, 8-1 Lednikov, 10-1 Myboymax, 12-1 Desert Quest.

Wolverhampton
Rob Wright

5.25 Snooze Lane
6.00 A Dublin Lad
6.30 Beenham
7.00 Mimi Kakushi
7.30 Nelson Gay
8.00 Gustav Graves
8.30 Greek Giant

Going: standard
Draw: 5f-7f, low best
Sky Sports Racing

5.25 Handicap (£3,245: 1m 1f) (9)
1 (9) 40265 ELLADE 21 R Hannon 4-10-1 J Leavy (5)
2 (6) 55620 HARBOUR VISION 100 (V,BF,CD) S Dixon 8-10-1A Pinna (7)
3 (2) 13504 SNOOZE LANE 36 (CD) Sarah Hollinshead 4-9-13 Morgan Cole (3)
4 (8) 05345 OH HERBERTS REIGN 22 R Hannon 4-9-13Alec Voikhansky
5 (5) 40132 MUDLAHHIM 12 (C) S Dixon 7-9-11 Elisha Whittington
6 (1) 33622 PRINCE ALI 7 (P,BF) D Faulkner 5-9-10 Archie Young (7)
7 (4) 22215 DARK COMPANY 35 (BF) M Loughnane 5-9-8Z Wheatley
8 (3) -1030 KINGWELL 27 (P,T,CD) Mrs I G-Leveque 4-9-6 Liam Wright (3)
9 (7) 00400 BROOMY LAW 13 (B) S Dixon 5-8-9 Mikkel Mortensen (7)
9-4 Prince Ali, 7-2 Mudlahhim, 5-1 Dark Company, 7-1 Oh Herberts Reign, 8-1 Ellade, Snooze Lane, 12-1 Harbour Vision, 20-1 Kingwell, 50-1 Broomy Law.

6.00 Novice Stakes (£4,104: 1m 1f) (9)
1 (1) 0 FRIEZE FRAME 22 M Scudamore 4-9-7Billy Loughnane (3)
2 (5) 3-3 A DUBLIN LAD 84 (BF) J & T Gosden 3-9-6 K O'Neill
3 (4) 0-0 CUTTLESTONE BRIDGE 60 (H) Steph Hollinshead 3-9-6 Joanna Mason
4 (9) 5 FIRST CUT 51 W Knight 3-9-6 J Haynes
5 (6) 0-23 FLY ZONE 19 (T,BF) Sir M Stoute 3-9-6 R Clutterbuck
6 (2) 00 SHAHEEN SAQAAR 10 E Dunlop 3-9-6 Morgan Cole (3)
7 (7) 033 CLASSIC TIMES 22 (H) R Varian 3-9-1 R Da Silva
8 (8) PERUVIAN SUNSET (H) J Stimpson 3-9-1 J Fisher (5)
9 (3) 06060 WOOD FARM WAG 17 Mrs N Evans 3-9-1 C Planas (3)
13-8 A Dublin Lad, 2-1 Fly Zone, 9-4 Classic Times, 12-1 First Cut, 20-1 Shaheen Saqaar, 66-1 Frieze Frame, Peruvian Sunset, 100-1 Cuttlestone Bridge, others

6.30 Novice Stakes (2-Y-O: £3,564: 5f) (6)
1 (2) 51 HINT OF THE JUNGLE 24 (D) E Dunlop 9-11 Morgan Cole (5)
2 (4) 40341 LIEUTENANT RASCAL 6 (D) G Scott 9-11 Billy Loughnane (3)
3 (3) 06652 BEENHAM 7 (BF,D) B Millman 9-6 R Clutterbuck
4 (1) 52100 MAKE IT EASY 14 (D) Jack Channon 9-6 G Bass (3)
5 (6) 0 LAW OF AVERAGE 36 C Banham 9-2 J Haynes
6 (5) 522 MISS ANYA 7 R Hughes 8-13 Ethan Jones (7)
2-1 Beenham, 11-4 Hint Of The Jungle, 4-1 Lieutenant Rascal, 5-1 Make It Easy, 6-1 Miss Anya, 66-1 Law Of Average.

7.00 Nursery (2-Y-O: £3,245: 1m 1f) (7)
1 (4) 00615 AMERICAN TALE 11 B Meehan 9-11 Billy Loughnane (3)
2 (5) 00002 PRIMETIME 15 Alice Haynes 9-10 K O'Neill
3 (1) 00231 KAARESS 7 (CD) O Pears 9-9 H Russell
4 (7) 45056 SALSA DANCER 17 (B) A Watson 9-9 T Fisher (5)
5 (6) 05025 BRANDAISY 23 R Fahey 9-8 C Hutchinson (3)
6 (3) 542 MIMI KAKUSHI 78 (BF) G Boughey 9-5 C Planas (3)
7 (2) 50056 RUST E BOY 27 R Hughes 8-13 P Dennis
11-4 Primetime, 3-1 Mimi Kakushi, 7-2 Kaaress, 7-1 Brandaisy, American Tale, 10-1 Salsa Dancer, 14-1 Rust E Boy.

7.30 Handicap (£3,873: 5f) (9)
1 (3) 60310 NELSON GAY 29 (P,CD) M Dods 5-9-13 R Clutterbuck
2 (2) 22364 BETWEENTHESTICKS 19 (P,CD) Jack Channon 3-9-11 Rose Dawes (5)
3 (5) 50041 BANG ON THE BELL 25 (B,CD) J R Jenkins 4-9-10 Liam Wright (7)
4 (7) 61602 CINQUE VERDE 7 (P,CD) A Carroll 3-9-8 M Phillips (3)
5 (4) 32133 ECCLESIASTICAL 10 (D) T Davidson 6-9-8 P Dennis
6 (8) 00532 MURBIH 10 (CD) A Brittain 4-9-5 Billy Loughnane (3)
7 (6) 21266 SPANISH ANGEL 13 (BF,CD) R Carr 6-9-4 Joanna Mason
8 (1) 53210 YAAHOBBY 25 (P,T,CD) A Brittain 4-8-13 K O'Neill
9 (9) 00053 STREET LIFE 8 (V,CD) P Morris 6-8-10 C Murtagh
4-1 Bang On The Bell, 9-2 Cinque Verde, 6-1 Spanish Angel, Ecclesiastical, 7-1 Nelson Gay, Betweenthesticks, 8-1 Yaahobby, 10-1 Murbih, 14-1 Street Life.

8.00 Handicap (£3,245: 5f) (11)
1 (5) 24005 ALFRED COVE 29 (D) A Carroll 4-9-9 Mollie Phillips (3)
2 (7) 60342 UNDER CURFEW 16 (D) A Carroll 7-9-9 W Carson
3 (9) 05501 LOCO LOBO 49 (H,D) L Williamson 5-9-9 K O'Neill
4 (1) 56445 GUSTAV GRAVES 7 (H,C,D) D Shaw 5-9-7 J Fisher (5)
5 (8) 00021 COAST 10 (C) S Dixon 4-9-5 Elisha Whittington (5)
6 (4) 00260 ADMIRABLE LAD 31 (B,T,CD) C Banham 5-9-4 J Haynes
7 (6) 00350 SUANNI 59 (B,T,CD) Darryll Holland 4-9-4 Liam Wright (7)
8 (2) 30024 UNIVERSAL GRACE 9 (T) S C Williams 3-9-1 Billy Loughnane (3)
9 (3) 00250 NEXT SECOND 9 (CD) R Carr 4-9-0 Joanna Mason
10(11) 000 ROYS PURSUIT 21 S Spencer 3-9-0 H Russell
11(10) 00655 CAPTAIN CORCORAN 32 (B,D) Mrs Stella Barclay 6-9-0C Planas (3)
4-1 Coast, 9-2 Under Curfew, 5-1 Loco Lobo, Universal Grace, 7-1 Gustav Graves, 8-1 Alfred Cove, 14-1 Suanni, Admirable Lad.

8.30 Handicap (£3,245: 1m 4f) (10)
1 (8) 14600 THE BAY WARRIOR 12 (P) M Usher 5-9-13R Clutterbuck
2 (3) 00650 HEART OF SOUL 56 (P,D) P Morris 8-9-13 K O'Neill
3 (4) 22244 IVY AVENUE 13 (V) M Appleby 6-9-11Billy Loughnane (3)
4 (1) 45-06 SAVVY BRILLIANCE 105 S P C Woods 3-9-9 Alec Voikhansky (5)
5 (2) 42112 GREEK GIANT 79 (BF,D) E Dunlop 3-9-8 Morgan Cole (5)
6 (5) -0252 ELOPED 20 (T) H Palmer 3-9-5 T Fisher (5)
7 (10) -1420 GENTLE FIRE 189 (T) S Drinkwater 7-9-3C Hutchinson (3)
8 (9) 1032- GOLD STANDARD 271 (C,D) A Carroll 7-9-3 W Carson
9 (6) 54006 ITALIAN MAGIC 38 (P) C Fellowes 3-9-0 Mikkel Mortensen (7)
10 (7) 30140 SKI JUMP 25 (P) R Fahey 3-8-12 C Murtagh
9-4 Greek Giant, 3-1 Eloped, 7-1 Ivy Avenue, 8-1 Gold Standard, 10-1 Gentle Fire, 12-1 Savvy Brilliance, Ski Jump, 14-1 Italian Magic.

Course specialists
Ascot: Trainers W Muir & C Grassick, 7 from 26 runners, 26.9%; O Burrows, 8 from 37, 21.6%; E Walker, 17 from 100, 17.0%. **Jockeys** Saffie Osborne, 10 from 58 rides, 17.2%; W Buick, 26 from 207, 12.6%; Hayley Turner, 9 from 79, 11.4%.
Haydock: Trainers Darryll Holland, 3 from 7 runners, 42.9%; H Eustace, 3 from 11, 27.3%; R Beckett, 28 from 105, 26.7%. **Jockeys** James Doyle, 29 from 131 rides, 22.1%; N Callan, 9 from 41, 22.0%; R Ryan, 12 from 68, 17.6%.
Kempton: Trainers S bin Suroor, 31 from 122 runners, 25.4%; R Varian, 65 from 276, 23.6%; J & T Gosden, 34 from 160, 21.2%. **Jockeys** B De La Sayette, 14 from 68 rides, 20.6%; P Dobbs, 14 from 83, 16.9%; H Davies, 8 from 58, 13.8%.



No dopers at this World Cup? Don't kid yourself

Owen Slot
Chief Sports Writer



It is two weeks since Rhys Webb was suspended by French authorities after testing positive for the illegal performance enhancer human growth hormone (HGH) and, with the World Cup under way, the chat is inevitably spiralling. It is the kind of stuff that you hear about rugby players whenever a story like this emerges: this is the tip of the iceberg, it's rampant in rugby, they're all juiced to the gills, aren't they?

My natural inclination is to say: no, they aren't. Before writing this, I made a few phone calls to different trusted people who are, or have been, right in the thick of rugby clubs, to re-educate myself — no names, no quotes, but what should I know? — and my position hasn't dramatically changed as a result.

Suspicion inevitably clings to the kind of world-class power athletes we'll be watching in this World Cup. When I've suggested in the past that this may be unfair, the mailbox fills quite quickly with a battery of correspondents informing me, again, that doping in rugby is rampant, the gills are fully juiced, etc. Yet whenever I've then replied saying, "Look, this is fascinating, you seem to know so much. What information do you have? Please share," those loud know-all voices have gone suddenly silent.

Beyond the chatter, what we know is that doping is cultural. On the same day that Webb tested positive, Elton Jantjies, the Springbok No10, did too. On the eve of the previous World Cup, in 2019, another Springbok dropped out with a positive test. It is at schoolboy level that there is a problem; every year at Craven Week, the big annual South African schoolboy festival, a number of boys test positive. In 2018, there were six of them.

Five years ago there was a spate of positives from south Wales, though this was interesting: they weren't frontline, full-time professionals. Rather, it was amateurs, semi-professionals, some of them young men chasing sculpted physiques rather than rugby careers.

Nevertheless, this contributes to a negative impression about rugby and dopers. The UK Anti-Doping website shows 11 rugby union players serving bans (six English, three Welsh, two Scots) which is more than any other sport, apart from rugby league. Yet, again, these are all amateurs; the only one you may have heard of is Chris Mayor, the former Sale Sharks, Northampton Saints and Wasps centre, who was busted when attempting to buy HGH. He was 36, playing lower league rugby, and said that he was trying to procure the HGH as a painkiller for his father's knee.

Believe what you will, but this has zero to do with the World Cup.

What is impressive is the amount of intelligence that goes into some of these doping cases. Which makes you wonder: if that is the case for the semi-pro game, why has there been no such success catching the big boys at the top?

The obvious answer is that the Mayors of this world are the low-hanging fruit. If there are professional rugby players doping — and of course there are — then they are going to be more professional and better informed about how they manage it. They will know about micro-dosing and how long a negative sample may remain in the urine or the blood.

Part of the reason why Webb's positive test was so unusual is that HGH stays in the system for such a short period of time. The "glow time" — the timespan in which you remain positive — is a maximum of 12 hours.

The answer, then, is to test a lot. However, testing is expensive and therefore limited. The latest year of collated figures, 2021-22, shows that there were 160 tests of England international players. That is about four times each a year. In the Gallagher Premiership, there were 254 tests, which suggests that many top-flight players weren't even tested once.

Encouragingly, of all those tests carried out, 65 per cent were out of competition. However, it is only the top players in the World Rugby whereabouts pool who have to provide the full details of where they will be on holiday and where they can be found for testing every day.

If you then add in further testing by World Rugby, an England player could reasonably have expected to be tested out of competition four or five times in the past year. That must be a deterrent, though maybe not if you know what you are doing.

The Webb story, meanwhile, is still young. He is waiting to see if his B-sample confirms the findings of the first test. However, his case must be drilled into. If he is found guilty of an offence, the source of his HGH is of paramount importance. It is a proper smoking gun.

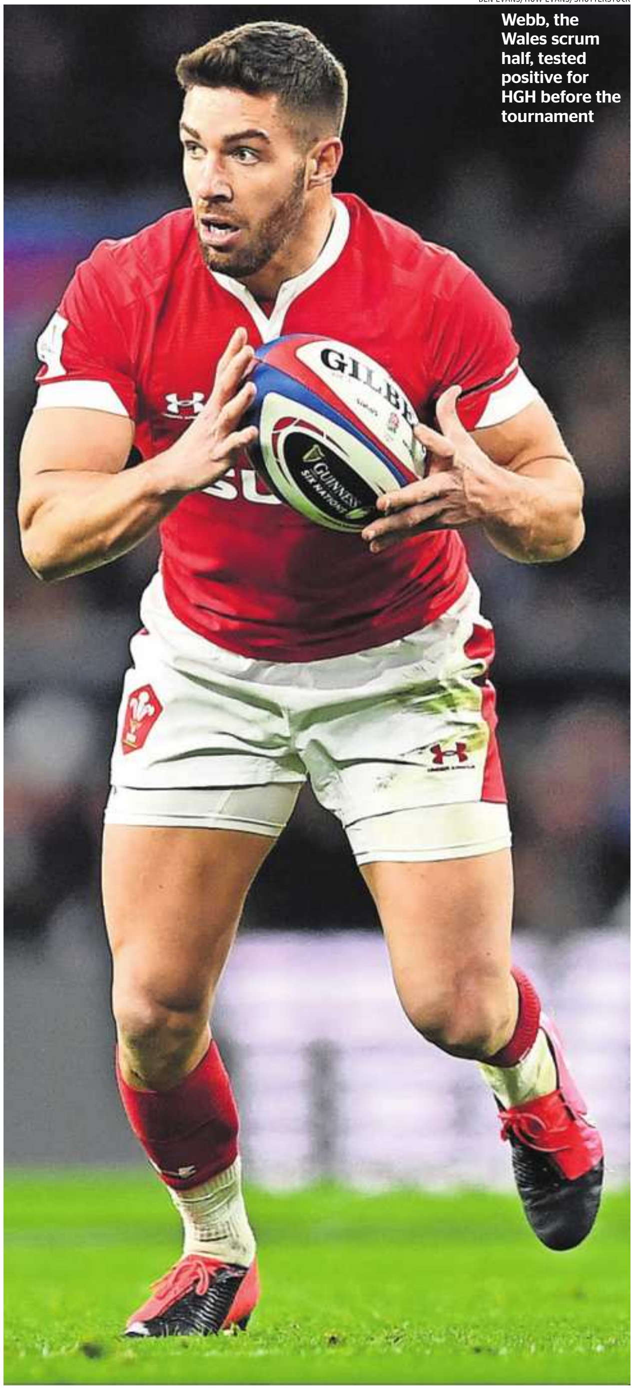
Anyone who believes that there are no dopers at this World Cup is kidding themselves. There will always be one-offs and short-cut takers.

But does rugby have a doping problem? That is the exact question that Alan Gilpin, the World Rugby chief executive, was asked at a pre-tournament press conference on Monday. The answer he gave was: "I think the evidence suggests no."

I think the evidence remains incomplete. We are scratching at the surface.



Jantjies tested positive on the same day as Webb



BEN EVANS/HUW EVANS/SHUTTERSTOCK

Webb, the Wales scrum half, tested positive for HGH before the tournament

Eight subs is too many

Rugby and substitutions: how many should teams be allowed to use? The debate has rumbled for a few years that eight is too many, because in the last quarter of games, when players tire, space opens up, which equals more line breaks, which in turn makes for a better spectacle. Conversely, eight replacements mean fewer tired players, less space and a poorer spectacle.

While we are all applauding the Pacific Island sides and hoping that they may be properly competitive at this World Cup, here is another reason for limiting the number of replacements. With the change of the eligibility rules, Fiji, Tonga and Samoa can all now just about stitch together a team that is strong from 1 to 15. However, they still lack the strength in depth to go 1 to 23. They certainly cannot do a South Africa and bring on seven international-calibre forwards from the bench.

If we really want these countries to compete, we should reduce the number of replacements. Make the World Cup a contest between the best teams, not the nations with the best strength in depth.

Apology to Dan Cole

To Dan Cole, an apology. Ever since the 2019 Rugby World Cup final, when the England scrum got mashed by the Springboks and Cole was made to suffer by Tendai Mtawarira, the idea has taken root that Cole was responsible. He came on for Kyle Sinckler (concussion) in the third minute, and the scrum then went backwards. Cole was therefore the problem. At least, that is how I read it at the time and I repeated it in print at the start of this week.

But then a highly respected former international prop got in touch and told me that this was wrong. And so I checked with one of the most respected scrum coaches in the world — and he said that I was wrong too.

Here are the facts. In the final, as per the quarters and semi-final, Eddie Jones started with Sinckler at tight head and Mako Vunipola at loose head, his two all-court props. On the bench were his two foremost scrummagers: Cole and Joe Marler. A front row is a partnership. When Marler came on for Vunipola in the second half and held up the loose-head side of the scrum, suddenly Cole started to hold his own better on the tight head. Cole hadn't been able to gain parity on his own, but with Marler there, he was OK.

Jones has since said that he should have picked Marler to start — which is correct. But hindsight suggests that the expert call, with the scrum purely in mind, would have been to start Marler and Cole together.

So four years on, maybe the smarter scrummaging brains have now recognised this, because Cole is in England's starting line-up to play Argentina today. They haven't gone the whole way, though — Marler is still on the bench.

Where should England stay in 2027? Down on farm

Professional rugby players, as with other sports, are increasingly losing the connection with their fans, the England team in particular.

So here is a solution: before they leave for the next World Cup, instead of the luxury saturation experience of five-star hotels, why not billet them each for a couple of nights with local rugby fans and their families. Imagine the love they'd get, the number of people they'd meet, the brief (but welcome?) change of headspace.

That's ridiculous, you say. Could never happen. But actually, it did. At the 1987 World Cup, before the quarter-finals — yes, *during* the World Cup, which was hosted by New Zealand and Australia — the All Blacks were all dispatched for two nights with local farmers and their families. And you know what, they loved it.

Amazing, isn't it? I had no idea about that until I listened to the excellent *How to Win a World Cup* podcast series by my colleague Will Kelleher.

England should listen to it and start planning accordingly for Australia 2027.

THE SCRUM



Up and running

Hosts France lay down World Cup marker with 27-13 defeat of New Zealand in Paris

Charles Ollivon races clear of Scott Barrett of New Zealand, who were overpowered in the second half

TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER MARC ASPLAND

NO MORE EXCUSES

England must turn in a drastically improved performance to beat Argentina today, as it emerges that Steve Borthwick will be safe in his job however his side fare at this World Cup



ENGLAND V ARGENTINA

STADE DE MARSEILLE
TODAY, KICK-OFF 8PM
TV: ITV1, FROM 7.15PM
RADIO: BBC 5 LIVE

Look out world – below-par

ALEX LOWE
Rugby Correspondent, Paris

FRANCE	27
NEW ZEALAND	13



1 New Zealand suffered their first defeat in 32 World Cup pool matches

The Rugby World Cup has lift off. On a sultry night in Paris, France eventually turned on the style to open their home World Cup with a victory over New Zealand, delivering a performance that evolved from a gritty, nervy first half and built to a rousing crescendo. The tension of the occasion was released into the sky with tries in the final 25 minutes from Damian Penaud and Melvyn Jaminet, with Thomas Ramos kicking 17 points.

The French crowd were far more respectful of the Haka than their own president, Emmanuel Macron, who was booed when he took to the field pre-match, but the once-famed All Blacks aura is being rapidly eroded. After a record defeat by South Africa a fortnight ago, this was the first time they had ever suffered a World Cup pool defeat.

Ireland, Scotland and South Africa will have watched events with a keen interest from pool B. The prize for winning that group will now almost certainly be to avoid a quarter-final against France, who won last night by 14 points and have many more gears to find. They will all believe the All Blacks are beatable.

New Zealand did play some lovely rugby early on and took the lead inside two minutes with a try from Mark Telea. France were slipping off tackles and Richie Mo'unga was manipulating holes in the defence. But they trailed 9-8 at the interval.

France scrambled and scrapped in defence and dug in, relying on penalties from the scrum and the breakdown to edge ahead. Telea scored again early in the second half after another defensive lapse but thereafter the All Blacks were barely in the game.

With Matthieu Jalibert and Ramos pulling the strings behind a dominant performance from the No 8 Grégory Alldritt, France upped the tempo and nearly 80,000 nervous French men and women finally found their voice.

"It was a massive game for our team today and I am proud to be French tonight," Alldritt said. "If we lost today it is not the end of the World Cup. But we are not champions now. We just have to keep working and go step by step."

This had been the most hotly anticipated opening game of a World Cup since 1995, when South Africa played Australia. The atmosphere around the Stade de France before kick-off was joyous and contrasted starkly with the Champions League final here last year, when Liverpool fans were kettled and had tear gas sprayed on them as they waited to get into the stadium.

The French rugby fans flocked to Saint-Denis early, singing on the trains and dancing in the streets. When the gates opened, 20,000 people were inside within 16 minutes. The French sports minister, Amélie Oudéa-Castéra, who had initially blamed the Liverpool fans for last year's chaos, promised that lessons had been learned. This time, at least, she was true to her word.

As the opening ceremony unfolded, a typically quirky performance to represent the history of French culture, news emerged that New Zealand's captain, Sam Cane, had dropped out of the team after suffering back spasms. It was not ideal for the All Blacks, who were already without Jordie Barrett, Shannon Frizell and Tyrel Lomax. Dalton Papali'i switched to open-side flanker and Tupou Vaa'i was promoted from the bench to start at blind-side, with Ardie Savea assuming the captaincy.

France had big-name absentees too, perhaps most notably Jonathan Danty, the thundering centre. The All Blacks immediately targeted the French midfield, launching a first-phase attack from a lineout and Mo'unga's pass sent Rieko Ioane streaking through a gap. When France had to kill the ball, Aaron Smith took a quick penalty and Beauden Barrett fired a wobbly cross-kick over Penaud's head towards the left wing. The ball bounced kindly for Telea, who scored the opening try after just 94 seconds.

France were not rattled. Julien Marchand won a penalty on the floor, which Ramos kicked, but the hooker soon limped off injured and appeared to be in tears as he sat on the bench with an apparent thigh strain.

France could not get their attacking game going, so went back to basics. Uini Atonio won two scrum penalties from Ethan de Groot, both of which Ramos kicked, before getting on the right side of Jaco Peyper, the referee, at the breakdown. New Zealand were the more fluid and threatening side with the ball in hand. France had missed a third of their tackles in the first half and Mo'unga was creating space, stretching and testing Les Bleus first with a deliciously delayed pass and then some lovely footwork as he drifted wide onto a pass.

But they could not convert the pressure into points. It felt ominous for New Zealand that France held the edge at half-time. The All Blacks stung France soon after the restart, with Will Jordan chasing a chip from Savea and penetrating deep into French territory. Ioane then saw Telea in space to his left and hurled a long pass that bounced up for the wing, who cruised over for his second try while Penaud was appealing that the ball had floated forward.

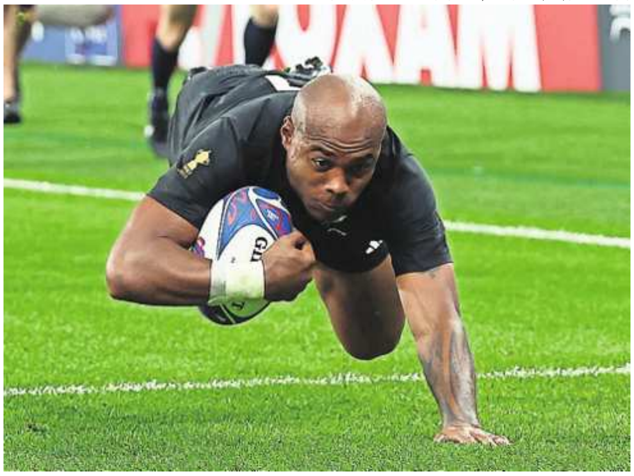
Peyper was not interested and awarded the try without any consultation. Fury swirled around the stands. But that all fed into France's renewed attacking purpose. They worked a gap for Thibaud Flament to gallop towards the line and France had men over when Telea knocked the ball forward. Peyper saw no offence.

But France were knocking on the door. Penaud collected, one-handed, a bouncing cross-kick, accelerated towards the corner and dived early on a greasy surface but Mo'unga executed a stunning cover tackle,

France demolish All Blacks

TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER MARC ASPLAND; FRANCK FIFE/AFP/GETTY IMAGES









Main, Penaud dives over for France's first try, while Telea, top, scored two tries for New Zealand. Above, Ramos was steady under the high ball all night and kicked 17 points for the hosts, while Jaminet's try, bottom right, sealed victory

dislodging the ball and saving the try. Having barely entered the opposition 22 in the first half, France were now camped in the red zone. Gaël Fickou made a half break and when the All Blacks conceded a penalty, France opted for the lineout. Sam Whitelock got a hand to it but the ball fell to France and Jalibert's jinking run created the overlap, this time giving Penaud a simple job to score in the corner. Ramos then slotted the touchline conversion.

Barrett went back to the boot. There had been some towering high-ball contests in the game, with Ramos, Jordan and Mo'unga all plucking the ball from the skies. This time Jordan misjudged it. In evading some blockers, he overran the ball and took out Ramos in the air. Yellow card.

Ramos added another penalty while Jordan was off and discipline was proving crucial. France conceded only four penalties in the whole game. Jordan clattered into Ramos again when he returned to the field.

Peyper decided Gabin Villière's role in the incident meant it did not warrant a second yellow but it gave France another three points, pushing their advantage to a converted try with seven minutes remaining.

And finally the French supporters knew they were home. Jaminet applied the coup de grâce, launching himself towards a smart box kick which bounced high, gathering and twisting to score. One flag went up for the conversion, the other stayed down, causing some initial confusion over the final score. But it mattered little. France were on their way.

Scorers: France: Tries: Penaud (55), Jaminet (78) **Con:** Ramos. **Pen:** Ramos 5 (5, 20, 29, 65, 74) **New Zealand: Tries:** Telea 2 (2, 43). **Pen:** Mo'unga (25).
France T Ramos (rep: M Jaminet 76); D Penaud, G Fickou, Y Moefana (A Vincent 57), G Villiere; M Jalibert, A Dupont (M Lucu 76); R Wardi (J-B Gros 53), J Marchand (P Mauvaka 12), U Atonio (D Aldegheri 53), C Woki (R Taofifenua 49), T Flament, F Cros (P Boudehent 63), C Ollivon, G Alldritt.
New Zealand B Barrett; W Jordan (sin bin 57-67), R Ioane, A Lienert-Brown (D Havili 63), M Telea (L Fainga'anuku 72); R Mo'unga, A Smith (F Christie 63); E De Groot (O Tu'ungafasi 53), C Taylor, N Laulala (F Newell 53), S Whitelock (B Retallick 69), S Barrett, T Vaa'i (L Jacobson 57), D Papali'i, A Savea.

Forget the swagger, grit and graft get Paris crowd jumping

OWEN SLOT
Chief Sports Writer, Paris



About 25 minutes into this World Cup opener last night, it seemed that everyone was on their feet. Not because of anything that Antoine Dupont had done or because they had scored or because Thomas Ramos had edged them back ahead in this relentlessly nip-and-tuck contest.

It was because the crowd were all chanting — in French — "anyone who doesn't jump isn't French". And thus it felt like the whole stadium was bouncing up and down, jumping and chanting and laughing and bobbing and not wanting not to be French, which is pretty much how everyone must have felt here.

Of course the Kiwis didn't want to be French. They wanted to beat the French. But there won't be one of them here last night who wouldn't have left without thinking: I wish we could have a bit of that back home, I wish we could rise like that to the occasion.

It actually felt like the World Cup had started a few hours earlier, a good five hours earlier in fact, on the east side of the Stade de France which officially goes by the name Avenue Jules Rimet but is really the street of a thousand bars — or a thousand cheap pop-up hot dog stands and sticky beer tents. Is this where it felt most French last night? Where French men and women celebrated their culture and laughed at their stereotypes, where they wore berets and quizzical stick-on moustaches, where they dressed as cockerels, as D'Artagnan and Napoleon, as Asterix and Obelix. It is where banging big hits pounded out of the sidewalk and where the French demonstrated another cultural quirk: that they can binge drink for five hours and still not start fights or throw up on the pavement.

And it is so much fun and such a glorification of the country and the event they are staging and hoping to win, that you could linger on the side of it all, waiting for the World Cup to begin yesterday evening, and struggle not to envy the joy it will be to be French for the next seven weeks.

They had a World Cup here only 16 years ago and it felt nothing like this. Not a celebration, not an expression of national expectation. Not such an occasion for Asterix and D'Artganan and not surprisingly because they didn't have their equivalents in the blue jersey; no Dupont, no Damian Penaud, not a team to make hearts sing like they did in the Stade last night.

Here, on this hot sticky Paris night, the Stade rocked. The rockers in the crowd booed and whistled at their President Macron. They completely ignored the hot air from the welcome speech of Sir Bill Beaumont, the World Rugby chairman, and belted out an unaccompanied version of *La Marseillaise* so Sir Bill could hardly be heard. But then, when the All Blacks were performing their haka, they called quiet upon the barrackers among them and observed in respectful silence. There was only one other moment all night when they were spellbound into such a silence — and that was when Dupont was giving his post-match interview. Quiet please, the Messiah is speaking.

Before it all started, we had Dan Carter stepping out onto the pitch, pristine and suited like some matinee idol, and conjuring the Webb Ellis Cup out of a box like it was a rabbit from a hat. Old Dan, he only needs to wear some well-cut threads and you are reminded of the old quality and class. But here now, in another era, we have this French team attempting to follow his path to greatness and a French crowd who believe they can get there.

They have empathy for their team too. There wasn't much more the All Blacks could have done here last night to dent their hopes than put Mark Telea over to score in the corner before the second minute had even been completed.

A French rugby crowd would once have turned too quickly on their own men, but in 2023 they respond to setbacks by belting out "Allez Les Bleus!". This is a French crowd enraptured by a turnover. The cliché was always that they loved French flair; now they love a team that fights and scraps and eventually just about brings the All Blacks to heel.

This was always set to be a massive first examination of the home team's World Cup credentials. Could they do it with all that expectation? Could they rise to the occasion or would they be cowed by it? They passed on every count — not by swagger and sidestep and dashing, clean pairs of heels, but something more mundane that was actually a better litmus test of whether they can go all the way: by controlling the game. And in so doing, they have become their nation's pied pipers, they have inflated hopes, they have their country with them the whole way.

And it made for one hell of a night. If you're not jumping, then you're not French. But you probably wish you were now.



Our writer with some swashbuckling home fans on a raucous night in Paris

Deliver – or lose next generation of England fans

ALEX LOWE
Rugby Correspondent, Marseille



The contrast has been jarring. As World Cup fever has swept France over the past week, the WhatsApp groups from back home have been pinging with jokes about England's prospects. It has been dark humour, a form of self-protection as England head into a game against Argentina as underdogs for the first time.

The factors behind England's decline are numerous and important. It is a scandal that they should reach this tournament at their lowest ebb after four years of sacrificing everything at the altar of the World Cup. But that is for the inquest.

This match is not about Bill Sweeney, the RFU's chief executive, or Conor O'Shea, the RFU's director of performance rugby. My 12-year-old son has just joined his first rugby club and he is loving it — a loose-head prop in the making. He does not care about fractured pathways, rugby politics or weak leadership at the governing body.

All he cares about is England. And that can be multiplied across thousands of boys and girls who are taking up this sport, and even wider to those who already have rugby in their blood.

It is England's responsibility to capture a generation and inspire a nation. It sounds glib, it sounds like a well-worn PR line. But it is true. If they cannot start rebuilding the relationship with the public, then rugby will be in serious trouble. Every young athlete needs a hero.

Gareth Southgate was in the England camp recently. Look at what he has done with the nation's footballers, rebuilding a fractured relationship and promoting the engaging personalities of players such as Bukayo Saka and Jack Grealish.

The Lionesses have done the same for women's football over the past two years and Ben Stokes for Test cricket with his leadership of the national team. Given the situation in which England's rugby union team find themselves, it would take something remarkable to emulate those achievements over the next eight weeks.

That has to be the aim and the draw is favourable for England, but Saturday night's clash in Marseille is pivotal. An opportunity can open up for Steve Borthwick's men if they find a way past the Pumas in their pool D opener.

This is easier said than done, of course. Argentina will have passion overflowing at the Stade Vélodrome. They will be incredibly physical in the contact area, led by Pablo Matera and Marcos Kremer, with a capacity to attack at pace via Emiliano Boffelli and Mateo Carreras.

The Pumas' biggest challenge will be to channel their emotions in the right way and remain disciplined. Four years ago, Argentina had no hope of defeating England in the pool stage in Japan after Tomás Lavanini was sent off.

In November, they kept 15 men on the field and won at Twickenham for only the second time. The first occasion had been in the autumn before the 2007 World Cup, which was also hosted by France.

The Pumas, starring Agustín Pichot, Juan Martín Hernández and Felipe Contepomi, took that tournament by storm, winning the opening game against Les Bleus and going on to finish third. Now under the intelligent leadership of Michael Cheika, they could easily repeat that feat here.

Should England lose, three weeks of angst will follow as they face Japan, Chile and Samoa knowing they cannot afford to slip up once more. No wonder the England management have been nervy this week. The pressure is intense.

The England players should remind themselves of the journey that got them here and for whom they are playing. It is easy to imagine this team, particularly because of the formulaic way in which they have been playing, as a homogenous bunch. But every one of them has their own story of discovering sport at school, of being captured by an England team.

"I remember watching every ball of the 2005 Ashes," Elliot Daly, the England wing, said. "That's what you want to play the game for. It makes you want to be those people that everyone is looking at every single day, to provide them with something that they can really get behind.

"We want to produce a performance to get everyone behind us and we want to go far in this competition. It's such an amazing competition to be a part of and I think the biggest thing for us is to really go for it."

Dan Cole was 16 and had just started playing rugby when England won the 2003 World Cup. Kyle Sinckler recalled this week how it still irks him that his mother turned off the television as that game went into extra time because he had to visit his maths tutor.

Jonny May, who starts on the other wing having been a late addition to the squad, began his rugby at Royal Wootton Bassett RFC. "I remember watching the England team and I was desperate for them to do well," he said. "You watch them play and then you go and play minis on a Sunday and you're feeling better about rugby if they win.

"Of course we're gutted to be letting people down and we're aware of that. All we're doing is our absolute best. We completely understand the frustration and disappointment and we share that."

Maro Itoje came from a family who did not initially understand rugby. It was football, and the 2002 World Cup, that first captured him. "I was in primary school at the time, and I just remember England flags everywhere, during our lessons we were watching football instead of maths or science," Itoje said.

"As I've grown older, I have been able to have probably a more up-to-date understanding of how things go and how it captivates the country. As a young rugby player you watch all these tournaments and think: 'I want to win. I want to be part of something special.'"

When England lost the Rugby World Cup final in 2019, Itoje quoted a Nigerian proverb: "When a ram goes backwards it is not retreating, it moves back to gather more strength." England have been moving backwards ever since. If there was ever a time to unleash that strength, it would be now.

England can only move forward. Borthwick, who accepted a hospital pass when he took charge at the turn of the year, has tried to select a team with the right balance of pace, ball-carriers and those who will compete hard with the abrasive Pumas.

The England defence has been woeful of late. They have to be better connected and more accurate with the detail. If they fail to protect the fringes of the breakdown, then the Pumas will punish them. But with Tom Curry's return to the back row and Joe Marchant at outside centre, they

3
Wins from nine Tests since Steve Borthwick became England head coach in January

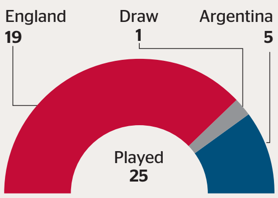
HOW THEY LINE UP

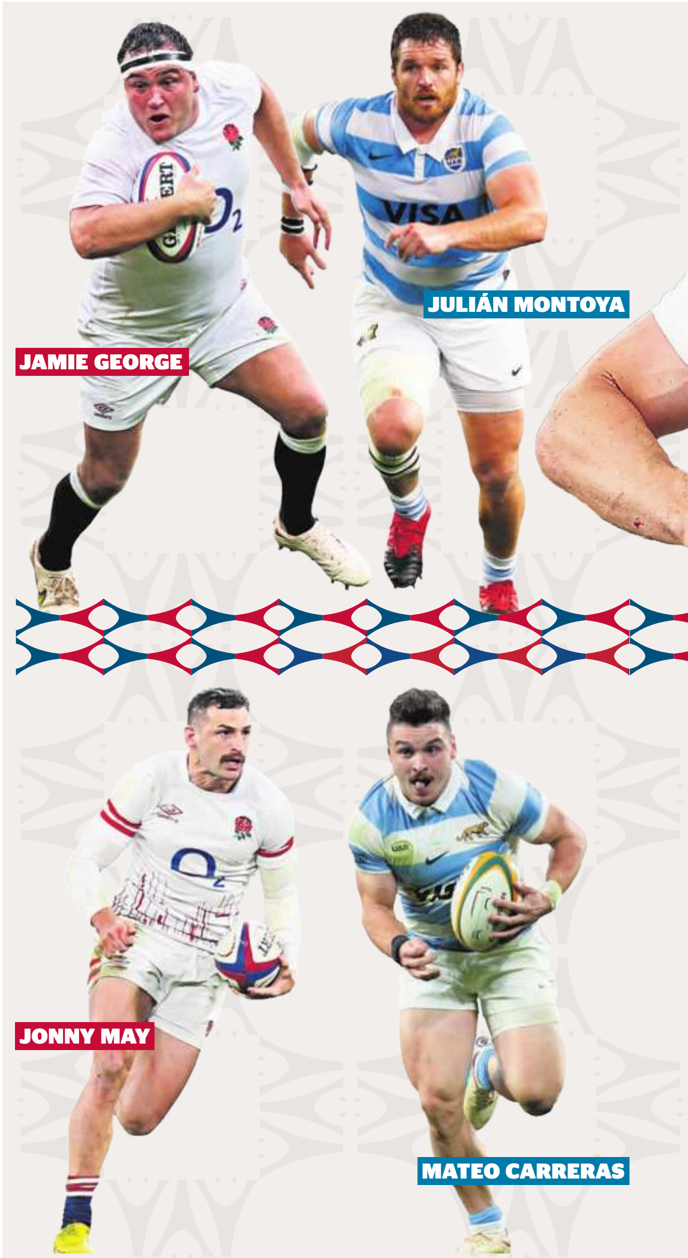
ENGLAND		ARGENTINA
F Steward Leicester	15	**J C Mallia** Toulouse
J May Gloucester	14	**E Boffelli** Edinburgh
J Marchant Stade Français	13	**L Cinti** Saracens
M Tuilagi Sale Sharks	12	**S Chocobares** Toulouse
E Daly Saracens	11	**M Carreras** Newcastle
G Ford Sale	10	**S Carreras** Gloucester
A Mitchell Northampton	9	**G Bertranou** Dragons
E Genge Bristol	1	**T Gallo** Benetton
J George Saracens	2	**J Montoya (c)** Leicester
D Cole Leicester	3	**F G Kodela** Lyon
M Itoje Saracens	4	**M Alemanno** Gloucester
O Chessum Leicester	5	**T Lavanini** Clermont
(c) C Lawes Northampton	6	**P Matera** Mie Honda Heat
T Curry Sale	7	**M Kremer** Clermont
B Earl Saracens	8	**J M Gonzalez** Saracens

REPLACEMENTS	REPLACEMENTS
T Dan Saracens	**A Creevy** Sale
J Marler Harlequins	**J Sclavi** La Rochelle
W Stuart Bath	**E Bello** Newcastle
G Martin Leicester	**G Petti Pagadizabal** Bordeaux Bègles
L Ludlam Northampton	**P Rubiolo** Newcastle
D Care Harlequins	**R Bruni** Bayonne
M Smith Harlequins	**L Bazan Velez** Rovigo Delta
O Lawrence Bath	**M Moroni** Newcastle

Kick-off Today, 8pm BST
Referee M Raynal (Fr)
Assistants B O'Keeffe (NZ) & P Brousset (Fr) **TMO** M Jonker (SA)

HEAD-TO-HEAD





Where opening clash could be won and lost

JAMIE GEORGE V JULIÁN MONTOYA
Saracens against Leicester Tigers here at hooker, and it is a battle that could define the game (Will Kelleher writes). Montoya is Argentina's heartbeat, captain, and key to their "bajada" style of scrummaging, where all the power is sent through the middle of the set piece.

Both players have similar statistics when you compare their Test form over the past four years, with George edging Montoya for lineout throwing success, but Montoya is a more dominant carrier. They are both key to the rolling maul for their sides too. Can George match Montoya's eye-popping passion, to go with his skill set?

TOM CURRY v PABLO MATERA
Curry has not played for three months, and is fizzing with energy, having been "locked in the gym" while nursing



an ankle injury. What a challenge he faces against Matera, Juan Martín González — who is going to Saracens after the World Cup — and Marcos Kremer, the bearded 26-year-old. Matera comes up with big moments. He was the star the two times Argentina beat New Zealand in this World Cup cycle, in 2020 and 2022, as a turnover-winning, tempo-setting hitter and emotional barometer.

Curry was England's star in 2019, and Kevin Sinfield said he is key to fixing their defence, which missed 27 tackles against Fiji last time out. He is more dominant than Matera in the carry and tackle — which is saying a lot.

JONNY MAY v MATEO CARRERAS
Gallagher Premiership fans know Carreras from Newcastle Falcons as the box-of-tricks winger with road-runner pace. He scored 13 tries in the league last season, second only to Harlequins' Cadan Murley, who scored 15, and two of them were nominated for try of the year.

May always used to be the fastest winger in the west, and is still rapid, but not as quick as the likes of Carreras, Louis Rees-Zammit and Henry Arundell.

Carreras is also a better defender, and better at avoiding tackles — a devastating combination.

May came from outside Steve Borthwick's initial England squad to make the World Cup opener, so has much to prove even though this will be his 74th cap.

13
The number of tries Carreras scored in the league last season

have two of their best defenders available.

Offensively, Alex Mitchell, who was omitted from England's original World Cup squad, has the quickest pass of the scrum halves. His natural desire to play at pace could help George Ford get England moving in attack, providing the ball does not have to be dug out from under a pile of Matera and Kremer-shaped bodies.

England are still expected to follow a fairly rigid, territorial kick-pressure game plan and then hope to open up the Pumas in their own 22. But the team's finishing has to improve. They have blown far too many chances during the warm-up campaign.

Cole will start his first meaningful Test since the group stage of the 2019 World Cup, brought in at tight head alongside Ellis Genge and Jamie George to anchor England's set piece and balance it against the Pumas.

Argentina have Thomas Gallo at loose head, an all-court prop who burst on to the scene in the under-20s but has since honed his scrummaging. Francisco Gómez Kodela, on the tight head, is the opposite. Like Cole, he is an out-and-out scrummager.

You sense that the final 20 minutes or so will be decisive. England's plan would appear to be to keep it tight, stay in the fight and then send on Marcus Smith at full back to change the dynamic. At the same time, the Pumas will be calling on six replacement forwards. Cheika has pulled a fast one on England's analysts, having never before gone for a 6-2 bench split.

England are gearing up for one hell of a scrap. No one expects them to win this World Cup. They do not have to, to capture a generation. Just put their best foot forward, give supporters young and old something to hold on to; something to enjoy, something of which to be proud.

That must start here. That is the players' responsibility to the next generation. England, as Itoje would say, must unleash their inner ram.

Ozil lookalike who wasn't even the best No 9 in his family

Alex Mitchell explains his 'weird rollercoaster' and how he won scrap with his older brother. By **John Westerby**

Never mind striving to become the best No 9 in England, Alex Mitchell has spent much of his 26 years attempting to prove that he is the best scrum half in his family.

Growing up in Cheshire, Mitchell's older brother, James, was a highly promising player, who featured at No 9 for Sale Sharks' academy and for England's age-group sides. He also started in the World Under-20 Championship final against New Zealand in 2015, alongside the likes of Ellis Genge and Lewis Ludlam. As the younger brother by a little more than two years, but with a similar skill set, Alex faced a scrap to keep up. In 2017 he was the England scrum half when they too were beaten in the World Under-20 Championship final — again by New Zealand.

When it came to making the step up to senior rugby, they went their separate ways from the Sale academy — James to Connacht, Alex was signed by Northampton Saints — until their professional paths crossed again when James signed a short-term deal as injury cover at Franklin's Gardens during the 2019-20 season.

"It was like having the Neville brothers around the place," Sam Vesty, the Northampton head coach said. "Well, his brother definitely looks like Gary Neville, but Alex looks more like Mesut Özil. Like any younger brother, you compete harder in your formative years against your brother than you compete against anyone. It can be the making of you, and you can see how competitive Mitch is in anything he does."

While James is now playing in the Championship for Jersey Reds, Alex has gone from strength to strength with Northampton. He served a long and, at times, frustrating apprenticeship as the second-choice No 9 to Cobus Reinach, the South Africa scrum half, but has come into his own since Reinach's departure three years ago. Over the past two seasons, the younger Mitchell has established himself as the fulcrum of the most exciting attack in the Gallagher Premiership. Saints have been the competition's leading tryscorers, reaching the play-off semi-finals both times, and Mitchell's creativity, running game and support play are reflected in the fact that his combination of tries and assists is higher than any other player in the league. "Mitch is one of the best heads-up rugby players in the country," Vesty said. "He's got great vision, a great skill set to back that up. But his ability to find space is his real USP [unique selling point]. That's something [Antoine] Dupont is obviously very good at, but it's a real strength of Mitch's too. He's very good at finding space for himself and for other people."

It is those qualities to which Steve Borthwick has reverted, opting for Mitchell as his starting No 9 against Argentina for England's opening World Cup game, having left him out of the squad entirely 2½ months ago. An injury to Jack van Poortvliet gave Mitchell a route back and now his performances in training have earned him selection ahead of the veterans, Danny Care and Ben Youngs. After such a sluggish warm-up campaign, Mitchell is now suddenly back in favour and being given the chance to raise the tempo of England's game.

"It's been a bit of a rollercoaster, hasn't it?" Mitchell said yesterday. "Out of the squad, now back in and getting a shot tomorrow. I'm just massively excited at getting an opportunity to play and putting my hand up. Yeah, it's been a bit weird."

Borthwick's decision to omit Mitchell seemed curious, as he had been one of the few England players to enhance his reputation during the Six Nations, coming off the bench for Van Poortvliet in every game after replacing Youngs in the squad for the second game, against Italy.

After training with England over the summer, when he was left out of the World Cup training squad in late June he travelled to Hvar, an island off Croatia, with a group of Northampton team-mates to digest the news. "[I had] one week off, just to reset the batteries," he said.

"I stayed fit and ready, then got called to come in. I trained hard and tried to put my hand up again."

Under Eddie Jones, Borthwick's predecessor, the selection strategy at No 9 was rarely clear. Mitchell made a tryscoring debut from the bench against Tonga in November 2021, but had to wait until the Six Nations this year to win his second cap. While the fleet-footedness and eye for a gap are Mitchell's most striking qualities, his all-round game management has developed.

"I'm chuffed he's getting his opportunity," Vesty said.

HEART OF THE ACTION

Most tries and assists in the Gallagher Premiership since the start of the 2021/22 season

Player	Tries	Assists	Combined
Alex Mitchell (Northampton)	18	25	43
Danny Care (Harlequins)	10	29	39
Tommy Freeman (Northampton)	24	12	36
Cadan Murley (Harlequins)	30	4	34
Max Malins (Saracens)	27	4	31

Source: Opta




Like Dupont, Mitchell knows how to find space

England: clueless in attack, weak in defence and short on emotion

SAM WARBURTON



I know there are many people who say that you should not pay too much attention to warm-up games before a World Cup gets under way, but they are still Test matches and there are often enough pointers to make considered judgments about a team's direction of travel and their respective strengths and weaknesses.

That is especially the case with England. Consider their four matches this summer, when they lost to Wales, Ireland and Fiji while scraping past Wales in a second encounter, and there are two stand-out statistics that are so obviously killing them.

First, they conceded 12 tries in those four games, which is just not good enough. The physical dominance is not there in contact, which then means it is hard for players to re-position swiftly enough and find the correct spacings in defence.

In the 2019 World Cup, England reached scary heights physically, to the point where, in the semi-final, New Zealand simply had no answer. I've never seen that before in my life. I've never seen such a suffocatingly dominant physical performance against such good opponents. I was actually in awe of it. It was one of the best performances, possibly even the very best, by a northern hemisphere team.

But England are nowhere near that now, even if a number of the players from four years ago remain. The coaching staff seem to be copping an awful amount of flak, but you cannot blame the coaches all the time. They are not on the pitch making the shots. Sometimes as a playing group you have to take a long hard look at yourselves. There are some players delivering physically, but are there enough of them? I would say there are not.

Put simply, England just do not seem to have the players to deliver that physical dominance they once had. The coaches will never say that, and they never should, because that would be throwing their players under the bus, which is not a good idea. But they are probably thinking, "Come on boys, throw us a bone. Rock up and perform for us, please."

I would never say that it is because the players do not want it enough. It used to annoy me as a player when we were challenged about our emotion. You are playing for your country, so there should never be any problem in that regard.

But I do know that there are times in a particularly unhappy camp when the players may not be at full throttle because they are not playing for their coach. Then you may lack that last few per cent of emotion because you want to let people know you are not happy, and I think we saw a little bit of that with Wales before Warren Gatland returned this year. However, I genuinely do not sense that is the case with England right now. It is certainly a much more stable coaching environment than under Eddie Jones.

I saw some interesting comments from Courtney Lawes recently where he stressed that when it matters more, England will turn it on. And I do think they will be better. That emotional barometer will go up significantly in this World Cup. But they will need to be a lot better, be a lot more aggressive in the collisions so that they can find the line speed in defence that underpins all great teams and was so critical for them in 2019.

I remember a drill that Andy Farrell used to do as a defence coach, which was to challenge the attackers to make only three passes. The idea was that the line speed would be so good that they would not have time to make those passes. You would fancy making those three passes right now against England.

They are getting some bits of their game right. Their lineout, apart from the first match against Wales, has been good. They have been getting really good maul metres, particularly from their own half. And apart from that defeat in Cardiff by Wales, they have stuck to their game plan of achieving high kick metres in a game, and have kicked pretty well.

But apart from the tries conceded, a second statistic from this summer is the most shocking. In attack in those four matches they have had 36 visits to the opposition's 22, yet they have turned only five of those opportunities into tries. That is just unacceptable. You look at Ireland, France, New Zealand and South Africa — they are not blowing six or seven chances in the 22 before scoring a try. They are way more ruthless than that.

In the first three matches this summer England scored only two tries, both from the forwards — one a driving lineout and the other a pick and go. They scored three tries from the backs against Fiji but that was probably more down to Fiji's lack of





Borthwick's job is safe – even if side go out early

Will Kelleher
Deputy Rugby Correspondent

Steve Borthwick is likely to keep his job as England head coach regardless of the team's performance at the World Cup, as the RFU has no desire to sack him.

The Times understands that the 43-year-old's position is largely safe even if England crash out in the pool stage, as the union wants Borthwick to oversee a long-term rebuild, having handed him a contract until 2027 when he succeeded Eddie Jones in December.

England enter the World Cup, where they play Argentina in Marseille in their opening match on Saturday, with a 33 per cent win ratio under Borthwick, having lost six of nine Tests this year. In that time they have suffered a record 53-10 home defeat by France and been beaten by Fiji for the first time in their final warm-up game last month.

They are underdogs against the Pumas, but should still advance to the knockout stage regardless by finishing in the top two of a pool which also includes Japan, Samoa and Chile.

Since the previous World Cup in 2019, the RFU has set the men's team performance targets based on their world ranking and win percentage, and all have been missed.

In 2021-22, it said that England should be ranked No 1 or No 2 in the world, but after the 2022 Six Nations they dropped to fifth, where they remained until Jones was sacked.

The year before, the team were tasked with winning 80 per cent of their matches, but only achieved 73 per cent. The RFU fudged England missing that target, saying that when their win ratio was "blended" with the women's team — who won all of their Tests that year — the combined total surpassed 80 per cent.

While the RFU has not published its goals for the 2022-23 campaign, it is understood the targets set for Borthwick are similarly based around England's world ranking and win percentage. At present England are ranked No 8 in the world.

Borthwick was given a five-year contract by the RFU in December, which will take Borthwick to the 2027 World Cup. The RFU is desperate for Borthwick to see out that contract, especially given it spent £1 million to sack Jones and hire Borthwick in December and recruit his coaching team — Kevin Sinfield, Richard Wigglesworth, Aled Walters and Tom Harrison — from Leicester Tigers.

When the RFU chief executive Bill Sweeney appointed Borthwick, there was no specific target for this tournament.

In December, Sweeney said: "World Cups are hard to win, and you need the rub of the green sometimes as well, so we wouldn't put any outrageous targets on the World Cup — this is a long-term rebuilding programme. We want to re-establish England." The Times has been told that stance remains unchanged.

Sweeney missed England's welcome ceremony in Le Touquet, their base for the World Cup in northern France, but attended the opening match last night between the host nation and New Zealand as a guest of World Rugby.

DAN MULLAN/GETTY IMAGES; MIKE EGERTON/PA



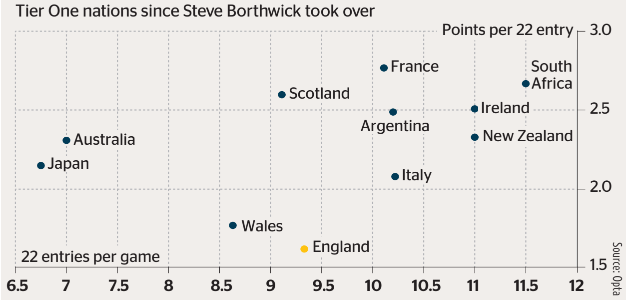


Marcus Smith, main, and Maro Itoje, above, train at the Stade Vélodrome where Borthwick, below, will hope his side can raise their intensity against the powerful Pumas



TOOTHLESS ENGLAND

Tier One nations since Steve Borthwick took over



organisation than anything else. Against teams that are more organised defensively, England just cannot score.

It is a massive red flag. I agree with the head coach, Steve Borthwick, in that, if they were not getting to the 22 and creating those opportunities, then the problems would be even more severe, but I do not see those difficulties being resolved quickly.

If you watch the teams that attack so well — think Ireland, New Zealand and even Italy, who are excellent in this regard now — and you freeze the recording of a wide frame when they are in the opposition 22, you will see their organisation. You will see that they know exactly what they are doing. The scrum half will have the ball in his hands and the shape around him is usually perfect. Not England. You watch them and the players are not into position quickly enough. The shape is simply not there.

I think you need to average at least two tries per game to be successful in this World Cup and England are not looking capable of that at the moment. Attack is never a quick fix in my experience. It takes time.

It is unlikely that you suddenly find the answer in a World Cup quarter-final or semi-final — and reaching those stages is not beyond England, I have to stress — and the three tries their backs scored against Fiji were promising because space was found at last, but as I have said, I suspect that was more to do with Fijian mistakes rather than an improvement in England's attack.

I could be proved wrong if England score four tries against Argentina on Saturday — and that is the glimmer of hope all England fans will be clinging to — but I would be very surprised.

My first thought about this game is that I wouldn't be surprised if England win. But when you actually look at in black and white and in the cold light of day, Argentina should win. And I think they will win.

England will win their remaining pool games and go through to the quarter-finals, but this match could be a huge wake-up call as to where their game is at. This is not meant to be a cursory insult to England. It is just a reflection of where they are, and also of how much teams raise their games against them.

25.7
Tackles missed per match by England this year, the second poorest, behind Australia (27.2) among tier-one nations

3.3
Tackles missed per 80 minutes by England, compared with only 1.3 for Ireland, the world's best

I remember Martin Johnson saying that there are two teams in world rugby who can hit emotional peaks that are considered way out of the ordinary, South Africa and Argentina, and that they usually hit those peaks against England.

It is so true. Argentina's emotional levels are pretty high as it is. I can remember playing against them in Cardiff (we lost 26-12 in 2012 when I was captain) and during the anthems you are thinking, "Blimey, you can even hear them singing here. These boys really mean business. We've got to be on our mettle." There is an aggression, a passion there from the start.

The game is about more than mere emotion, but against Argentina if you are not at an emotional peak then you are going to struggle. To stand a chance, England need to hit a peak they have not reached in a year.

The Scrum

‘We’re balancing underdog spirit and desire to win’

MARK PALMER
Scotland Rugby Correspondent, Marseille



After months of build-up, Scotland finally emerged blinking into the sunlight at the Stade Vélodrome as they were put through their paces on the lush surface of the magnificent Marseille arena that hosts their World Cup opener against South Africa tomorrow.

The match has been a long time coming; Gregor Townsend has had almost endless scope to perm, ponder and peruse the options at his disposal. In the event, the team he announced yesterday was predictable, with the only real intrigue coming on the bench where the Scotland head coach resisted the temptation to go for a six/two split between forwards and backs.

The settled nature of Townsend’s selection speaks to the consistency and continuity the side have developed since last summer, even if they are still prone to the sort of collective brain fades on which an opponent of the calibre of the Springboks can make the most of.

“The majority of the players have played together all year. A couple of players missed the Six Nations; Rory Darge and Darcy Graham who are back fit and back with us,” Townsend said. “It’s a team that deserves to go out there. They have earned the right to start in such an important fixture because of the way they have played, and the way they have trained.

“We have built a lot of cohesion over the last two or three months by training with certain combinations week after week. We’ve seen the benefits of doing that transfer into the warm-up games, and now it’s about delivering the most complete game we have done this year.”

Asked whether Scotland would seek to play on their status as definite underdogs this weekend, Townsend’s answer spoke to the belief that exists within the four walls of the camp. Townsend referenced the recent narrow away defeat to France in a warm-up match as evidence of Scotland’s right to think big.

“We were playing the favourites for the World Cup in front of their own supporters and we said to go out there and play like there was nothing to lose,” Townsend said. “For a lot of that game we did that and almost came away with a win, so that mindset is a good one to have. But we also need the mindset that we can win and if we’re ahead in the game, we need to put the foot down and keep playing, keep doing the things that got us ahead. You’ve got to balance that underdog spirit with the mindset that we’re here to win.”

Townsend had no qualms about immediately reinstating Zander Fagerson, who has played less than an hour of rugby since the end of May having been sent off in the first France warm-up game. His ban now over, the tight-head prop will be a key figure in Scotland’s efforts to resist the intense pressure that will come on at scrum time from both the starting and back-up Springbok front rows.

“He’s fresh,” Townsend emphasised. “He’s trained really hard and we’ve scrummed a lot. I don’t believe it

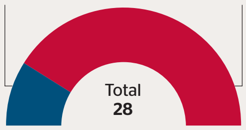
HOW THEY LINE UP

South Africa			Scotland	
D Willemse	Stormers	15	**B Kinghorn**	Edinburgh
K-L Arendse	Bulls	14	**D Graham**	Edinburgh
J Kriel	Canon Eagles	13	**H Jones**	Glasgow
D de Allende	Wild Knights	12	**S Tuipulotu**	Glasgow
C Kolbe	Tokyo Sungoliath	11	**D van der Merwe**	Edinburgh
M Libbok	Stormers	10	**F Russell**	Bath
F de Klerk	Canon Eagles	9	**B White**	Toulon
S Kitshoff	Ulster	1	**P Schoeman**	Edinburgh
M Marx	Kubota Spears	2	**G Turner**	Glasgow
F Malherbe	Stormers	3	**Z Fagerson**	Glasgow
E Etzebeth	Sharks	4	**R Gray**	Glasgow
F Mostert	Mie Honda Heat	5	**G Gilchrist**	Edinburgh
(c) S Kolisi	Racing 92	6	**J Ritchie (c)**	Edinburgh
P-S du Toit	Toyota Verblitz	7	**R Darge**	Glasgow
J Wiese	Leicester	8	**J Dempsey**	Glasgow

Replacements		Replacements	
B Mbonambi	Sharks	**D Cherry**	Edinburgh
O Nche	Sharks	**J Bhatti**	Glasgow
T Nyakane	Racing 92	**WP Nel**	Edinburgh
RG Snyman	Munster	**S Cummings**	Glasgow
M van Staden	Bulls	**M Fagerson**	Glasgow
D Vermeulen	Unattached	**A Price**	Glasgow
G Williams	Sharks	**C Redpath**	Bath
W le Roux	Bulls	**O Smith**	Glasgow

Kick-off Tomorrow, 4.45pm BST
Referee A Gardner (Aus)
Assistants N Amashukeli (Geo) & J Way (Aus) **TMO** B Whitehouse (Wal)

HEAD TO HEAD





Ritchie, the Scotland captain, faces an enormous challenge against Du Toit, one

If pack can halt juggernaut, Townsend will know how to

JOHN BARCLAY
Former Scotland captain



I played with and against enough South Africans to know that the physical contest is more than a matter of pride for them; it courses through their DNA, epitomising much more than their approach to rugby.

They set out to annihilate you, to take you to the very limits of what your body can withstand, to find out if you will still come back for more. The players expect it, and what’s more, so do the public supporting them at home.

South Africans treat that whole business of hand-to-hand combat as being intensely personal, in a way that no other country or nationality of player I have ever encountered has come close to matching. In my experience, the whole culture of South African rugby is built on taking things personally. I recently did a podcast with Jim Hamilton, my friend, former team-mate and Sunday Times columnist, in which we said that Scotland would win tomorrow’s big match in Marseille.

An innocent enough — if somewhat optimistic — observation, you may think. Not a bit of it. In came a tide of angry messages: bemused, even outraged at the suggestion that Scotland could dare to win this match. Sifting through this social media tripe, I was struck by the fact that not one comment explicitly stated where the Boks were superior. No. The message was simply: “We’re going to smash you. Scotland will be trampled into the Stade Vélodrome turf.”

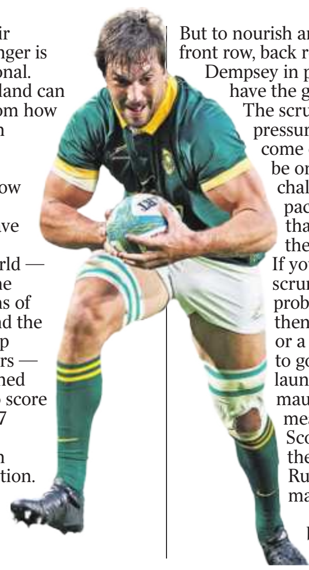
I saw some sugary words coming out of the Springbok camp earlier this week, with a series of speakers talking up Finn Russell and Scotland’s attacking game plan. Pay scant attention to these niceties. More so than against any rugby nation on the planet, actions will speak louder than words. Gregor Townsend and his players will understand as much.

There probably is a level of respect towards Scotland, Russell and the overall approach that hasn’t been there in the past, but South Africa will still think they can beat us up physically — they’ve always managed to do that and so it’s always remained their approach. Their thinking will be to use plan A (power, power, power) and if that doesn’t work, do plan A better.

Their whole ethos is focused and entrenched in squeezing and pressurising you. That’s at scrum time, maul time, physical carries, forcing ill-discipline and then field position. When they get moving and rumbling, if you get on the back foot like New Zealand did at Twickenham a couple of weeks ago — and like I did on a couple of occasions against them — the laws of physics come into play. If you don’t stop them in the first phase, you don’t win the game. It’s pretty simple.

Having been on the other side, it’s pretty terrifying when South Africa click like that. Their dynamism and hunger is absolutely exceptional. Nevertheless, Scotland can take confidence from how they played in both warm-up matches against France, especially the narrow defeat in Saint-Étienne. France have one of the best defences in the world — they are close to the Springboks in terms of pure physicality and the line speed, flying up hard on ball-carriers — but Scotland matched them, managing to score four tries in a 30-27 defeat.

Scotland can win tomorrow, no question.



Eben Etzebeth is at heart of Springbok power game

But to nourish any kind of hope, the front row, back row — and Jack Dempsey in particular — need to have the games of their lives.

The scrum is crucial. The pressure that’s going to come on at scrum time will be one of the greatest challenges this Scottish pack will have faced and that’s why looking after the ball is so important. If you spill it, it’s not just a scrum but a possible/probable penalty, and then either three points or a chance for the Boks to go to the corner and launch that devastating maul. Dempsey, meanwhile, can get Scotland up to and over the gainline and give Russell a chance to make hay.

I can’t help but think back four years to our opening game at the

PETER CZIBORRA/REUTERS



of the world's top players, in Marseille

affects props as much as maybe back-line positions where getting touches on the ball, making defensive decisions in difficult situations, you need the match practice.

"Zander is very fit, his work is going to be in the set piece and at close quarters. I see it as a bonus that he's been able to do more fitness work. We had our best scrummaging session of the campaign on Wednesday."

So much of tomorrow's game will come down to fundamentals, with Darge, the open-side flanker, acknowledging that Scotland can go a long way to denying South Africa front-foot ball by what they do at the breakdown. While declining to go overboard about his opposite number, Pieter-Steph du Toit, the Glasgow loose forward is clear about what will be demanded of him.

"A lot of it starts with the collisions and winning the shots first up and that makes it easier to deal with. It's not just down to the back row, everybody's got to clear and contest the breakdowns," Darge said.

"I definitely enjoyed watching him [Du Toit]. I wouldn't say he's a role model for me but I have loads of respect for the way he plays the game. It's definitely a battle me and Jamie [Ritchie, the captain] will be looking forward to."

Townsend explained that the make-up of the bench is in part a reflection of the recent injury niggles which Graham and Blair Kinghorn have been carrying. Ollie Smith — who gets the nod over Kyle Steyn — can happily cover both the full back and wing positions.

Ali Price is the back-up scrum half, with George Horne having been ruled out with a concussion he suffered in training earlier this week. The same fate befell Ewan Ashman, the hooker, and so Stuart McInally has gone to France as precautionary cover.

The veteran was due to retire when he failed to make the World Cup squad last month, but could yet enjoy an Indian summer to his 49-cap career if there are any issues with Ashman's recovery. As yet, McInally has not been formally added to the squad. For now, it is all about 23 players and a dream that to many on the outside will appear fanciful.

"It's the biggest opportunity you'll get: a World Cup game, playing the world champions. And we believe we've been building to our best performance," Townsend argued. "I know that's a continual journey and we'll say it again as we go towards the Tonga game [Scotland's next outing on September 24], but really this is where it'll count for our players to deliver what they have been delivering in training and what they have been delivering in other games — in games we've played this year. We have every faith they will be able to do that."

South Africa v Scotland
Tomorrow, 4.45pm
TV: ITV
Radio: BBC Five Live

hurt the Springboks

2019 World Cup, when I was part of the team thrashed 27-3 by Ireland in Yokohama. We got everything wrong in the build-up. There was too much of a focus on the emotional side of the game, which created unnecessary stress, which then went through the roof after we were dismantled on the field.

Since then, Gregor has learned to trust his instincts, other coaches and players. Scotland go into this tournament with a far better understanding of how they want to play the game. That way is also far more suited to what they're going to face.

Gregor is one of the smartest coaches I've ever worked with, and he will go into this match having identified opportunities to score. With the speed at which South Africa fly up in defence, there is going to be space somewhere, and there are few better in the world than the Scotland coach at identifying where it is.

I also suspect there will be a much better balance between emotion and strategy this time. Fundamentally, Scotland need to be measured and look after the ball — as with it they are up there with the better attacking sides in the world.

I enjoyed playing in Scotland's last win against South Africa way back in 2010 but I'm not sure there is anything from that game that is relevant or instructive now. This Springbok team is much better — so is the current Scotland — and instead of a wet November night at Murrayfield, the players are facing conditions more akin to Japan than Edinburgh, with a greasy ball in the heat and humidity of the Mediterranean.

It would be absolutely magnificent for Scotland and the tournament as a whole if we witness an upset. Townsend and his troops believe they can win. They also know exactly what is coming. The challenge is in facing down the juggernaut that is South African rugby, meeting it head-on and not taking a backward step for 80 minutes.

Water breaks for all as humidity rises

Will Kelleher
Deputy Rugby Correspondent

World Rugby confirmed yesterday that there will be water breaks at all World Cup matches this weekend because of the high temperatures.

World Rugby have told officials they can stop games once per half if the temperature rises above 30C or the humidity level is more than 60 per cent.

The water breaks will take place about the 20-minute mark in each half. The duration of them is at the discretion of the referee.



Games can be stopped once per half for players to take water on board

In Paris — where Australia begin their World Cup against Georgia — the temperature will be 34C today, and it will be 35C in Bordeaux during the Ireland versus Romania match.

The good news for England is that it will be slightly cooler down south in Marseille, 23C by 9pm local time, where England play Argentina tonight.

Additional water and cold towels will also be provided.

The Gallagher Premiership used water breaks when the competition returned from Covid, so players could all use separate water bottles.



TISSOTWATCHES.COM

Gatland out to stop Fiji from hitting lethal stride

Elgan Alderman
Bordeaux

Warren Gatland always feels pre-match nerves, let alone before the first game of a World Cup against Fiji as the twin impostors lurk. Win and one foot is in the knockout stage; lose and it may be in a World Cup grave.

After nine months of build-up since Gatland was parachuted in as head coach, after strike threats, fifth place in the Six Nations and interminable summer training, the World Cup is here. Other than Dewi Lake and Dafydd Jenkins, who are hindered by injuries, this is Wales's first-choice XV. The aim up front is solidity at scrum through Gareth Thomas and Tomas Francis, and Adam Beard as lineout leader. Gatland has resisted having Dan Lydiate at blind-side flanker for his tackling, picking Aaron Wainwright, who carried brilliantly at No 8 against England last month. Jac Morgan will have his first real test as captain alongside Taulupe Faletau, who is back after missing the warm-ups through injury.

The back line is littered with experience: Gareth Davies and Dan Biggar in their third World Cup as half backs, George North at outside centre, and Liam Williams and Josh Adams with the sparkling Louis Rees-Zammit in the back three. Five of the starting backs were there in Oita four years ago, when Fiji flew into a 10-0 lead but from the scores being level at the hour-mark, Wales won 29-17. "You don't blow them away early doors, they are competitive, and we expect the same," Adams said. "None of us went and tried something different, none of us had to go off script, none of us wanted to go and do something magical off your own back."

On the bench, Tommy Reffell is poised to bolster Wales's jackalling threat at the breakdown, and Tomos Williams, Sam Costelow and Rio Dyer offer tempo out wide, should Wales be chasing the game. There is one change for Fiji from the XV who beat England last month, and it is significant. Caleb Muntz was an impressive orchestrator then, but his tournament-ending injury means Teti Tela wears No 10. Levani Botia and Josua Tuisova missed the match but are back on the bench.

Wales v Fiji
Tomorrow, 8pm BST
TV: ITV
Radio: BBC Five Live

Botia is a phenomenal breakdown menace and a bowling-ball carrier at open-side flanker. Tuisova could feature at inside centre or on the wing, and Adams knows all about him, having been steamrollered four years ago. Gatland has considered whether it is better for Wales to be turned over or to concede a penalty, with data suggesting you are out of possession for longer if you infringe. Yet allowing Fiji to play brings risk, especially if the defence is fractured. "At some stage, they'll make a break or get an offload away," Gatland said. "It's how we react. We've spoken about discipline and keeping them out of our 22. They tend to come alive in opposition 22s."

DAVID DAVIES/PA



Rees-Zammit, part of the Wales back three, will pose a threat against Fiji

Gatland wants to move Fiji around with the kicking game, forcing the forwards into shuttle runs in the middle of the park. He sets his watch by his team's "almost legendary fitness", as ITV's Steve Rider dubbed it in 2011, and again he is talking up their ability to stay the course.

"It's not whether I believe it, but whether the boys believe it," Gatland said. "Probably from the warm-up games, where the ball-in-play time against England in the first game was 39 minutes, we looked good. In the second game against England, it was 30 minutes. It didn't allow us to use some of the hard work we've put in."

Gatland would prefer it if there were no water breaks tomorrow, when it will be almost 30C even at 9pm in Bordeaux, but player safety has trumped tactical desires.

Wales availed themselves of high-class facilities over four months at home at the Vale resort, in the altitude of Switzerland and the 40C heat of Turkey, before three warm-ups. Fiji slept on the floor at a village hall on Taveuni, then ran up and down the mythical Sigatoka sand dunes, before winning all three matches at the Pacific Nations Cup, losing to France and that win over England. That two-month build-up, allied with more than half the squad playing in Super Rugby, makes them more threatening than ever. These teams are bound by five successive World Cup clashes — but this time with favourites unknown.

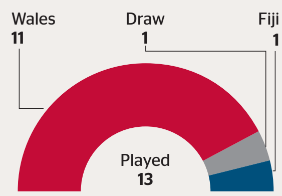
HOW THEY LINE UP

WALES		FIJI
L Williams	**15**	**I Droasese**
Kubota Spears		Fijian Drua
L Rees-Zammit	**14**	**S Ravutaumada**
Gloucester		Fijian Drua
G North	**13**	**W Nayacalevu (c)**
Ospreys		Toulon
N Tompkins	**12**	**S Radradra**
Saracens		Lyon
J Adams	**11**	**V Habosi**
Cardiff		Racing 92
D Biggar	**10**	**T Tela**
Toulon		Fijian Drua
G Davies	**9**	**F Lomani**
Scarlets		Fijian Drua
G Thomas	**1**	**E Mawi**
Ospreys		Saracens
R Elias	**2**	**S Matavesi**
Scarlets		Northampton
T Francis	**3**	**L Tagi**
Provence		Bayonne
W Rowlands	**4**	**I Nasilasila**
Racing 92		Fijian Drua
A Beard	**5**	**T A Cirikidaveta**
Ospreys		Fijian Drua
A Wainwright	**6**	**A Tuisue**
Dragons		Gloucester
(c) J Morgan	**7**	**L Tagitagivalu**
Ospreys		Pau
T Faletau	**8**	**V Mata**
Cardiff		Edinburgh

REPLACEMENTS	REPLACEMENTS
E Dee	**T Ikanivere**
Dragons	Fijian Drua
C Domachowski	**P Ravai**
Cardiff	Queensland Reds
D Lewis	**M Doge**
Harlequins	Fijian Drua
D Jenkins	**T Mayanavanua**
Exeter	Northampton
T Reffell	**L Botia**
Leicester	La Rochelle
T Williams	**S Kuruvoli**
Cardiff	Fijian Drua
S Costelow	**J Tuisova**
Scarlets	Racing 92
R Dyer	**S Maqala**
Dragons	Bayonne

Kick-off Tomorrow, 8pm BST **Referee** M Carley (Eng) **Assistants** W Barnes (Eng) & C Ridley (Fr) **TMO** B MacNeice (Ire)

HEAD-TO-HEAD



Farrell's 'distracted' Ireland need a statement win

Peter O'Reilly
Bordeaux

Ireland's form coming into this World Cup has been scratchy, uneven — or "clunky", to borrow the head coach Andy Farrell's adjective. Combine three watery warm-ups with that nervy performance in the grand slam game against England in March and you could almost classify it as a pre-tournament dip.

You would just need to choose your words carefully around Peter O'Mahony. When it was suggested to him that the world's No 1-ranked team have produced nothing like the vitality of South Africa and France in recent weeks, the veteran flanker paused, grimaced and gave one of his long-suffering exhalations.

"I don't know if I'd completely go along with that," O'Mahony said eventually, before confirming that Ireland need a show of strength against Romania in Bordeaux this afternoon. "We've missed a few beats certainly over the last few weeks but a lot of it has been good for us. Not that we needed a reality check but it's just been a reminder, which is great before a World Cup, that teams are going to be at their very, very best, and particularly now that we are world No 1, we've a big target on our back.

"There's no point in putting it otherwise. Every team you play is going to be at their very best to try and knock you over and I think it was a good reminder for us over the last few weeks that we need to be all over things, from minute one to minute 80.

"There were parts of our game that we were really impressed with and happy with, that we need to keep building on, but we found some areas where we need to get back to where we were maybe 18 months ago."

Ireland need to make a statement and they also need to beat Romania by as many points as possible, just in case qualification from this devilishly difficult pool B is ultimately decided by points difference. The tournament organisers are surely feeling nervous for a Romania side who conceded more than 50 points to both Italy and Georgia last month. Ireland are at full strength, except for Dan Sheehan (almost recovered from injury) and Mack Hansen.

Farrell's comments about players being "distracted" by the charms of Biarritz prompted speculation that Hansen had been disciplined but this was shot down emphatically by the assistant coach Mike Catt, who said that Hansen's match minutes were simply being managed.

Ireland v Romania
Today, 2.30pm
TV: ITV
Radio: BBC 5 Live

Romania's only advantage is that they are more accustomed to playing in high temperatures. The mid-afternoon forecast at the ultra-modern Matmut Atlantique Stadium is for a draining 35C. Certainly it will test a part-time open-side flanker such as O'Mahony, who will celebrate his 34th birthday next weekend. O'Mahony's selection on the open side is only one indication that Ireland have been beefing up in preparation for their pool game against South Africa in Paris two Saturdays from now.

Another is the selection of Joe McCarthy — the original "broth of a boy" — in the second row. Yet another is the inflated body shape of James Ryan. The once willowy Ryan admitted on Friday that he had added "a couple of kilos" of muscle over the summer, but expressed the wish that Ireland could maintain the speed and mobility that has been central to their success. O'Mahony is confident that Ireland's build-up has prepared them for high temperatures as well as for super-sized opponents.

"It's difficult," he said. "But the management certainly designed a lot of the pre-season around some hot-weather training — in Biarritz, in Portugal and here. That will stand to us.

"This is the biggest stage for all for us. It's where you want to be. Four years the management team has been planning this. We've been very vocal about how we've designed the last couple of years based on getting to this point using all those experiences that we've gone through to best effect. It doesn't get bigger than this."

Ireland H Keenan; K Earls, G Ringrose, B Aki, J Lowe; J Sexton (c), J Gibson-Park; A Porter, R Herring, T Furlong, J McCarthy, J Ryan, T Beirne, P O'Mahony, C Doris.
Replacements R Kelleher, J Loughman, T O'Toole, I Henderson, J van der Flier, C Murray, J Crowley, R Henshaw.
Romania M Simionescu; N Onutu, J Tomane, F Tangimana, T Manumua; H Vaovasa, G Rapunu; I Hartig, O Cojocaru, A Gordas, A Motoc, S Iancu, F Rosu, V Neculau, C Chirica (c).
Replacements F Bardasu, A Savin, G Gajion, M Iftimiciuc, D Ser, A Conache, T Boldor, T Gontineac.

Referee N Amashukeli (Geo) **Assistants** W Barnes (Eng) & A Piardi (It) **TMO** B Pickerill (NZ)

ROUTE TO THE FINAL

Not including last night's match

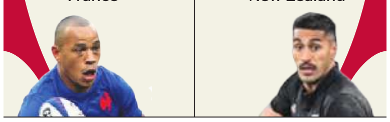
A

POOL A

New Zealand
France
Italy
Uruguay
Namibia

KEY CLASH

Gaël Fickou, France — Rieko Ioane, New Zealand



POOL A FIXTURES

Home	Away	Date	Time, TV	Venue
France	New Zealand	Fri, Sept 8	8.15pm, ITV1	Stade de France
Italy	Namibia	Sat, Sept 9	Noon, ITV1	Saint-Étienne
France	Uruguay	Thu, Sept 14	8pm, ITV1	Lille
New Zealand	Namibia	Fri, Sept 15	8pm, ITV1	Toulouse
Italy	Uruguay	Wed, Sept 20	4.45pm, ITV4	Nice
France	Namibia	Thu, Sept 21	8pm, ITV4	Marseille
Uruguay	Namibia	Wed, Sept 27	4.45pm, ITV4	Lyon
New Zealand	Italy	Fri, Sept 29	8pm, ITV1	Lyon
New Zealand	Uruguay	Thu, Oct 5	8pm, ITV4	Lyon
France	Italy	Fri, Oct 6	8pm, ITV1	Lyon

POOL A STANDINGS

	TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	B	PTS
A1									
A2									
A3									
A4									
A5									

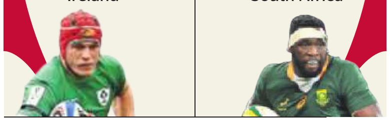
B

POOL B

South Africa
Ireland
Scotland
Tonga
Romania

KEY CLASH

Josh van der Flier, Ireland — Siya Kolisi, South Africa



POOL B FIXTURES

Home	Away	Date	Time, TV	Venue
Ireland	Romania	Sat, Sept 9	2.30pm, ITV1	Bordeaux
South Africa	Scotland	Sun, Sept 10	4.45pm, ITV1	Marseille
Ireland	Tonga	Sat, Sept 16	8pm, ITV1	Nantes
South Africa	Romania	Sun, Sept 17	2pm, ITV1	Bordeaux
South Africa	Ireland	Sat, Sept 23	8pm, ITV1	Stade de France
Scotland	Tonga	Sun, Sept 24	4.45pm, ITV1	Nice
Scotland	Romania	Sat, Sept 30	8pm, ITV1	Lille
South Africa	Tonga	Sun, Oct 1	8pm, ITV1	Marseille
Ireland	Scotland	Sat, Oct 7	8pm, ITV1	Stade de France
Tonga	Romania	Sun, Oct 8	4.45pm, ITV3	Lille

POOL B STANDINGS

	TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	B	PTS
B1									
B2									
B3									
B4									
B5									

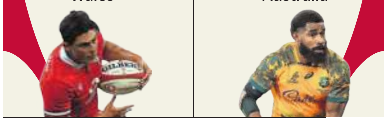
C

POOL C

Wales
Australia
Fiji
Georgia
Portugal

KEY CLASH

Louis Rees-Zammit, Wales — Marika Koroibete, Australia



POOL C FIXTURES

Home	Away	Date	Time, TV	Venue
Australia	Georgia	Sat, Sept 9	5pm, ITV1	Stade de France
Wales	Fiji	Sun, Sept 10	8pm, ITV1	Bordeaux
Wales	Portugal	Sat, Sept 16	4.45pm, ITV1	Nice
Australia	Fiji	Sun, Sept 17	4.45pm, ITV1	Saint-Étienne
Georgia	Portugal	Sat, Sept 23	1pm, ITV1	Toulouse
Wales	Australia	Sun, Sept 24	8pm, ITV1	Lyon
Fiji	Georgia	Sat, Sept 30	4.45pm, ITV1	Bordeaux
Australia	Portugal	Sun, Oct 1	4.45pm, ITV4	Saint-Étienne
Wales	Georgia	Sat, Oct 7	2pm, ITV1	Nantes
Fiji	Portugal	Sun, Oct 8	8pm, ITV4	Toulouse

POOL C STANDINGS

	TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	B	PTS
C1									
C2									
C3									
C4									
C5									

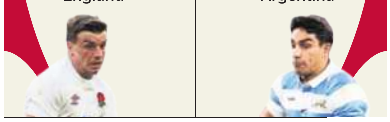
D

POOL D

England
Japan
Argentina
Samoa
Chile

KEY CLASH

George Ford, England — Santiago Carreras, Argentina



POOL D FIXTURES

Home	Away	Date	Time, TV	Venue
England	Argentina	Sat, Sept 9	8pm, ITV1	Marseille
Japan	Chile	Sun, Sept 10	Noon, ITV1	Toulouse
Samoa	Chile	Sat, Sept 16	2pm, ITV4	Bordeaux
England	Japan	Sun, Sept 17	8pm, ITV1	Nice
Argentina	Samoa	Fri, Sept 22	4.45pm, ITV1	Saint-Étienne
England	Chile	Sat, Sept 23	4.45pm, ITV1	Lille
Japan	Samoa	Thu, Sept 28	8pm, ITV4	Toulouse
Argentina	Chile	Sat, Sept 30	2pm, ITV1	Nantes
England	Samoa	Sat, Oct 7	4.45pm, ITV1	Lille
Japan	Argentina	Sun, Oct 8	Noon, ITV1	Nantes

POOL D STANDINGS

	TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	B	PTS
D1									
D2									
D3									
D4									
D5									

QUARTER-FINAL 1

C1 v D2 — Sat, Oct 14, 4pm, ITV1, Marseille

QUARTER-FINAL 2

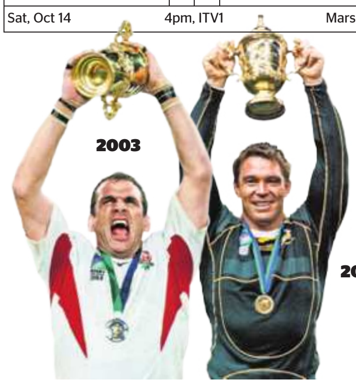
B1 v A2 — Sat, Oct 14, 8pm, ITV1, Stade de France

QUARTER-FINAL 3

D1 v C2 — Sun, Oct 15, 4pm, ITV1, Marseille

QUARTER-FINAL 4

A1 v B2 — Sun, Oct 15, 8pm, ITV1, Stade de France



2003

2007

SEMI-FINAL 1

QF1 v QF2 — Fri, Oct 20, 8pm, ITV1, Stade de France

SEMI-FINAL 2

QF3 v QF4 — Sat, Oct 21, 8pm, ITV1, Stade de France

THIRD-PLACE

Loser SF1 v Loser SF2 — Fri, Oct 27, 8pm, ITV1, Stade de France

FINAL

WINNER SF1 v WINNER SF2 — Sat, Oct 28, 8pm, ITV1, Stade de France



2019

2011, 2015



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The Oval Trim Device is a registered trademark of Gilbert Rugby.